

Appendix C

Public Comments Describing the Top Eight Outdoor Recreation Issues in Nevada

The 132 participants in the issues and actions identification and prioritization process were asked to write a brief description of each of the eight issues presented in chapter 1 of this plan. Descriptions provided by the participants are presented in this appendix to record this public input.

Each of the eight issues is complex when viewed from the perspective of the 132 participants. Descriptions submitted by the 132 participants capture this complexity extremely well. Studying the descriptions, though somewhat tedious, broadens ones understanding of the eight issues in this plan. Understanding the perspectives of others on the issues should improve opportunities to work together to implement the actions presented in chapter 1 of this plan.

Public comments for each issue are grouped under the appropriate headings. Views expressed by participants are not necessarily those of the State of Nevada.

Issue # 1: Public Access to Public Lands for Diverse Outdoor Recreation

Balance

- “Balance, balance, balance. We do have a growing need, but we also need to give government the resources and authority to protect, maintain, and increase public lands. Not always easy in the West.” (Private Citizen and Avid Hiker, Incline Village).
- “Achieving the balance between protecting and maintaining public lands with the increase in overall users and type of user without negatively impacting the resource...” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “The public has the right to see our lands and to use them properly, but there needs to be a check and balance. If there is a commercial operator in the area, they should help by being the eyes and ears of the ranger of that area.” (Commercial ATV Operator, Logandale)

- “We must keep public land accessible to the public while balancing the diversity of users to moderate the impact humans can have on sensitive lands.” (Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board, Henderson).
- “Striking a balance between public access, existing and new, with environmental resource constraints, i.e., threatened and endangered species habitat protection.” (Recreation Program Manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency).
- “There is a need to protect the environment and the pristine areas of public lands. At the same time the public should be allowed to enjoy it. This will require educating the public to accomplish this.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).
- “Protect and use at the same time. Use but not abuse.” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).
- “The public lands need to be protected with multiple uses of all the public allowing use by all classes.” (Nevada State Director, Good Sam Club).
- “Access to public lands should be a high priority and a criteria for recreational projects seeking public lands. However, not every tract of public land is suitable for accessibility by every type of recreational user. Access should be correlated to the type of recreational activity and nature of the land being used for recreational purposes. Efforts should be made to ensure a diversity of public lands are made available to satisfy the needs of all outdoor recreational users.” (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).

Development

- “I am concerned about public land being cut off from use by the public due to development, primarily residential development.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City).
- “Public access to public lands is becoming increasingly more difficult as developments close off corridors to these public lands. Consequently, much more emphasis and financial resources need to be placed on the provision of non-vehicular shared-use transportation paths.” (Deputy Director, Las Vegas Planning and Development).
- “Private development is closing off areas that have previously been used to access public lands. Attention needs to be directed to the areas to make sure this access is not lost.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).
- “In Reno and the Truckee Meadows, new residential development has encroached on the surrounding mountains and blocked trail access to many of the canyons and public lands.” (Parks Manager, Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services).
- “As development continues, access to trails and public lands are being blocked. Access to public lands, and the availability of such lands, is a ‘quality of life’ indicator—a reason to move here and remain here. However, development is threatening this important aspect of our life in Northern Nevada.” (Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada State Office).
- Access to public lands is rapidly decreasing. Once lands are developed, it is difficult and expensive to obtain these lands.” (Park Planner, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).

- “Many roads are being closed, traditional access undergoing development or being gated so public lands are becoming inaccessible...” (Founder, Truckee Yacht Club).
- “Our primary difficulty here is retaining or acquiring access as development occurs. We need to increase our involvement at the planning and community development level.” (Project Coordinator, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Access can be denied as early as the plan approval state—typically a central government such as a county. Probably an oversight by staff who fails to see from proposed developers plans. Local government (towns, GID) need review authority and need to require access be planned in!” (General Manager, General Improvement District).
- “Private land development near public lands can result in reduced access to public lands. This is especially true in urban interface. County planning/permits should provide for public access (easements) across private lands where applicable. BLM planning efforts must identify key access points and provide access where applicable.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Field Office).
- “As development of land increases, traditional access to public land is cut off. Governmental land planning and management agencies should assist in creating public easements with developers and private landowners. Coordinated planning efforts (Issue # 8) between government entities, non-profit and user groups should be on-going. Prioritize access points that are threatened immediately and create additional public access by developing staging areas and trailheads for multiple user groups.” (Trails Chairperson, Nevada All-State Trails Riders).
- “I believe the issue has two critical sources. The development of private land that has an access point and use areas to public land has been restricted. Users have to find other less convenient ways to get on public land. Also there are more users out there who want to use public lands so all access points are overcrowded and people look for other potentially unapproved access points.” (Trails Project Coordinator/Designer, Truckee Meadows Trails Association).
- “We're blessed in Nevada to have significant public lands resources available for a variety of recreational uses; problems are increasingly occurring in areas of urban interface where development is closing down historic access points. The existing development approval process is perceived as missing opportunities to provide for permanent access points and trails. Requirements may be on the books, but there is no good enforcement to ensure that access remains. In more rural areas, landowners often take to gating traditional public roads, cutting off access and confusing potential users who have a right to cross private property in order to access public lands.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).

Threats to public access

- “As the state continues to grow in the urban areas, the attractiveness of public lands will increase and require additional protection, maintenance, and access preservation.” (State Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, Nevada Department of Transportation).

- “As the Las Vegas community continues to grow, more demand and use is experienced on public lands for recreation and other uses. Often this use is restricted to small areas of public lands creating over use and carrying capacity issues.” (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).
- “Every year there are fewer access points to the Truckee and Carson Rivers for anglers. We need to provide state owned access points every mile or so for the entire lengths of these rivers.” (Boating Access Grants Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Gateways or entrances to public lands should not be sold to private parties, thus cutting off an historic access to public lands. If this happens, an agreement should be made, whereby an alternative access is provided based on public input, federal land holder, and private party.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Public lands next to urban (areas) should be available and accessible to the public as much as possible.” (Assistant Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “In Henderson, our Master Bike and Trails Plan provides direct connections to public lands surrounding the Las Vegas Valley. Protecting these connections is essential to providing access to our citizens not only on public lands, but Henderson as well.” (Park Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).

Population increases threatens access to public lands

- “Fifteen years ago, Nevada’s population did not yet exceed one million; now the population of the Las Vegas area itself exceeds a million, and is still growing. With the increase in urban residents, recreation areas close to the cities are impacted by recreational users, and the demand for use often exceeds the facilities provided—whether these be parking lots, access roads, trails, restrooms, or campgrounds. Many new kinds of recreational sports and activities have arisen within the past two decades: para-sailing and personal watercraft, bungee jumping, skateboarding, snowboarding, and ultra-light flying. With the increased use comes the need for maintenance and provision of new facilities for these activities...” (Park Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “As population increases, less land is available for public use; (we) need to protect and maintain areas that allow public’s use of lands.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “With the population rapidly increasing in the state and more recreational users seeking recreational activities makes it important to direct and manage these areas. Access is important to provide these users with their particular interests, and the greater number of and quality points of access will help distribute these users. This will also help land managers to account for and manage these resources.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelmen).
- “The number of recreation visitors is increasing and we need to provide more opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized users. Funding for easements/ROW's is necessary to acquire legal continued access to public lands.”

(Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office).

- “Public demand for access to public lands is over running all land agencies planning or capability to manage. Land managers thus are in a reaction mode instead of a pro-active mode. Resources are being destroyed where public access management plans are not in place.” (Senior Account Representative—Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).

Changing management practices of private property owners

- “Some access to public lands is limited by private property land holdings that encompass the surroundings.” (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “It is vital to keep access open to all of the public lands and not allow them to be surrounded by all private land.” (Author unknown).
- “Issue is providing public access to public lands behind private lands.” (Game Warden, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “A way must be found to get through or around any private land that blocks access to public land.” (President and Volunteer, Nevada Wildlife Federation).
- “Increasing occurrence of family ranches being subdivided and sold to development is blocking traditional access to public lands.” (Wildlife/Recreation Manager, U.S. Forest Service).
- “How do we get access to our public lands when private land owners are closing off traditional access...How do we identify key access roads that are truly needed and those that are not. Keep public lands for all of us to enjoy.” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).
- “Some trailheads and parking space are on private lands. In some cases the landowners have tolerated hikers for years but are now posting no trespassing signs.” (Retired Employee, U.S. Forest Service).
- “The need has always been there. It is increasing in Northeast Nevada due to wildfires and private lands being restricted.” (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).

Ways to gain access to public lands through private property

- “First, there is a need to gain access through private holdings to many places on public lands. There are several approaches like gaining easements, special permissions, trade offs like road improvement and facilities in exchange for access, educational activities to encourage recreationists not to damage private property, etc. Purchase of private land for access needs to be discouraged. There is too much public land in Nevada already and acquisitions reduce the tax base and productive output.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “Access to public lands can best be accomplished or maintained by building the will and a way at the community planning level.” (Private Citizen, Elko).

Keeping open lands accessible to the public

- “Nevada has enormous open land. It is a treasure and a responsibility. Recreation in nature gives us basic values of respect and caring for nature. This experience should be open to all, while protecting our state’s treasure. These experiences can grow generations that are awake and engaged citizens.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).
- Presently, Nevada enjoys a large amount of public lands open to outdoor recreationists. Access to public lands in other western states has been greatly reduced by private land ownership. If large acreages of public lands in Nevada are transferred to private ownership, public access will become a factor in the future. Public lands for the American public will allow for recreational access to the majority of public lands in Nevada.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Station).

Respecting private property and public lands

- “We need to maintain and increase access to public lands; however, we also need to be very respectful and considerate of crossing privately owned land to get to public lands.” (Private Citizen, Sparks).
- “My issue would be that I don't whole heartedly agree with this statement. Public access may be threatened in some areas because of the abuse public lands have suffered due to public access. It's a shame, really. The very people that want access may be the reason access needs to be curtailed. And who ever said "public" only applies to the present and existing public? Shouldn't we save something for our children ("future public") to enjoy?” (Planning Manager, Advanced Planning Division, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).

What may be described as “environmental activism” may capture some respondent’s views on the issue.

- “Responsible use is certainly possible; however, pressures from well-funded, national “environmental” groups may bypass any opportunity for that responsible use. Wilderness and monument designations may not be in Nevada’s best recreational interest.” (Zephyr Cove Entrepreneur).
- “For some groups, "protect" means closure. Prefer the emphasis be on maintaining or increasing access to public lands. Adopt-A-Trail options are available and will go far to "protect" these lands. But the Adopt-A-Trail program will only work when the adopters realize their efforts are accepted and do, in fact, result in a continuation of maintaining openness.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “The increase in wildernesses, wilderness study areas, and the roadless issue has created a great concern, considering 87% of Nevada is controlled by the federal government. The misuse of the Endangered Species Act is also an important issue to public access.” (President, Elko- Sno-Goers).

- “The BLM should open up land for public use instead of continually putting up barriers to close off land access. In doing so, procedures would need to be put in place to maintain and protect them from vandalism and abuse.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate and Asset Management Division, City of Las Vegas).
- “As the federal government pushes for more wilderness and closing of public access roads within public lands, we lose more access into public lands through motorized vehicles, bicycles and horseback.” (Private Citizen, Austin).

Protect the resources as access and use increases

- “There is a growing need to prevent habitat loss. Wildlife is important to people, either to view or hunt, and degraded habitat because of overuse will impact wildlife. Wilderness areas provide the best protection to wildlife and will allow the public to visit and enjoy while wildlife can continue to exist.” (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).
- “Care must be taken by managing agencies to ensure that resources are not degraded as public access increases. Resources at risk include archaeological sites such as caves and rockshelters, subject to looting when public access increases. Increased access should be coupled with increased public education on being good stewards, and may mean increases in monitoring and patrolling by agencies.” (Assistant Director, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office).
- “We need to find ways to identify and protect many scenic and recreational resources before development or misuse destroys them. Efforts must be taken to identify areas that can absorb intense recreational use and educate the public where these resources are available and how they can be maintained.” (Director, Churchill County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Increase of public access should be approached with sensitivity to wilderness values, sensitive resources such as wetlands and streams and wildlife habitat. Maintenance of access is critical to avoid creating impacts such as excessive erosion along roads or trails.” (Employee, Resource Concepts).
- “Most of the State of Nevada is underdeveloped. Maybe you should only develop recreation around larger cities and leave the rest of the state for people who want and are prepared for the wilderness experience.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “The general public seems to be trending toward more outdoor recreation use. With the increasing demand in accessing the public land, the protection and maintenance of these resources must be addressed.” (Engineering Technician II, Clark County RPM Department).

No more closures

- “Protect in the sense of keeping existing access open and available. No more closures. Require developers to keep existing access points open.” (Off-Road Vehicle Rider, Reno).

- “Access to public lands must be maintained to enable the maximum number of users to enjoy recreational facilities.” (City Manager, City of Yerington)
- “Nevada is fortunate in that the vast majority of the state is public lands. We need to expand the access opportunities for both Nevada residents and visitors. This will help our tourist-based economy. We also need to offer a greater diversity of recreation including motorized recreation. We don’t need any more land closures that hinder motorized recreation opportunities, such as wilderness areas, etc.” (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).
- “Public access is being limited or denied to certain users of public land. Roads are closed and areas are closed for wilderness; other roads are limited to street legal vehicles only, denying use by OHV’s. All users should be able to hike, ride or drive on public lands while still protecting the natural resources. Public lands belong to all Americans, not just the Sierra Club.” (Private Citizen, Elko).
- “Endangered species and Clark Counties Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan have severely restricted use of public land in Clark County. Many are concerned with what the future use of these lands will be. Now they (senators) are pursuing public lands bills to further restrict access and use of land.” (Rural Towns Manager, Clark County).
- “Accurate issue. There must be public access for the public to use public lands. It is fundamental and almost too obvious. Also key point: diversity of recreational users—prohibit more (closures).” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “It doesn’t do much good to have a public land resource if the public can’t access it. A good utilization plan should identify the public land resource available to the public with specific directions/methods to access and use the resource (Master Planning).” (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, County of Washoe Road Division).
- “The public access should be maintained in the same manner as the recreational area. If the access isn’t maintained, how does one get to the recreational area?” (President, Sierra Nevada Sams).
- “I feel this is an important issue for Nevada. We need to increase access for sportsman and outdoor activities. Without access the citizens will be locked out of valuable outdoor resources in Nevada.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

Views on various aspects of the statement of the issue

- “The “growing need” reflects demographic population growth and reduction of open space nationwide. Nevada has the most public lands of any state other than Alaska, so Nevada should responsibly protect its public lands. “Greatest diversity” means a public representing America in race and ethnic diversity, and should only be limited by excluding uses that degrade or damage, rather than protect, public lands.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, National Park Service).
- “Multiple use, to include walking, horses, bicycling, ATV’s, and motorized vehicles. Multiple road heads, with sanitary facilities. Will need cooperation from private land holders; a state program to reimburse “ranchers and businesses”

for damages done on private right-of-ways.” (Medical Doctor, Member, Blue Ribbon Coalition).

- “Our public lands are really a blessing, but everyone seems to have their own designs on how to use them. Environmentalists, mineral interests, and other private interests have their goals, but I am still convinced that the greatest good for most of our public lands is recreation. These other issues/interest groups need to recognize that the openness and accessibility to public lands is most beneficial to the state and its residents. They would do well to acknowledge that fact and work “in concert” with recreation and each other by learning to ‘play second fiddle.’” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).

Improving agency management of public lands

- “Although the majority of Nevada is federal land open to the public, it is largely unknown to the majority of the population and essentially unmanaged. In some areas this leads to uncontrolled impacts, conflicts between user groups, and conflicts between land managers and user groups. This needs to be better managed and developed so that a wide diversity of lands (mountains, deserts, urban fringe and rural) can be made available to all user groups.” (Organization on Environmental Issues, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).
- “Public lands can be either local or federal and every public agency must do its best to maintain public access. Local governmental agencies must continue to work with developers and others to protect/increase public lands. Local governments must look at infill projects that have potential for acquisition of open space, etc.” (Park Planning Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department).

Increased state control of public lands

- “Increased state control is needed to insure access whenever possible. The state is more responsive to local needs than is Washington, D.C. The 19th century land distribution/control strategy is no longer viable.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).

Funding public access to public lands

- “Access to recreational activities on public lands has not been a critical issue in our area to date. In most cases, private land has not been posted and it has been open to outdoor recreation activities. As growth occurs, more of the private land is being posted and developed and there is more opportunity for conflict between private landowners and recreationists. In addition to the continued need to retain access to public lands, there is a need to provide funding for acquisition of private lands in areas with a high level of recreational use.” (Coordinator, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council).
- “Increased funding to agencies for this to occur. Agencies should put together a plan to address.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).

- “Unless financial support from outside of Lincoln County is forthcoming, or unless the State provides these services, it is highly unlikely that Lincoln County can increase existing programs.” (Director, Community Development, City of Caliente).

Access to public lands for the mobility impaired

- “Access without barriers is important. Trailheads often have bollards, gates, etc. to keep motor vehicles out and prevent wheelchair users from getting in.” (Director of Research and Development, Beneficial Design).

Issue # 2: Funding Parks and Recreation

Perceptions of inadequate funding and recreation opportunities

- “The perception of inadequate recreation funding drives the perception that there is a lack of recreation opportunities.” (State Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, Nevada Department of Transportation).

Funding impacts conditions on the federal lands in Nevada

- “Present levels of recreation funds from Washington, D.C., to the BLM and USFS are not even sufficient to manage staffing let alone develop recreation sites. Outdoor recreation in the federal agencies needs to be funded for future recreation project development, management, and staffing to complete the planning and NEPA requirements.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, BLM Tonopah Field Station).
- “Recreational funding comes from many different levels, from private interest groups to the federal government. Providing adequate funding at the higher levels is important so these land managers can provide the needed time, oversight, and resources to these users. It is the federal government's responsibility to fund the basic facilities and management personnel necessary to assure public enjoyment and preservation of federal lands. The Congress is currently cutting domestic spending. Recreation programs are particularly hurt. By consistently providing inadequate funding for maintenance of our nation's trails and recreation facilities, Congress has created an enormous backlog of deferred maintenance needs. The recreation budgets of federal land agencies should increase.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelman).
- “Existing levels of outdoor recreation funding for BLM public lands are inadequate to meet the growing recreation needs of Nevada. Future funding levels will remain static or possibly decrease over the next few years. Fee demonstration monies may offset appropriated dollars. The BLM must promote and foster partnerships with governmental, non-profit, and user groups to offset costs.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Carson City Field Office).

- “With the vast amount of public lands, the existing levels of recreational development funding are inadequate. If expanded demands for recreation use on public lands occurs, increased funding is required. The degree/level of quality recreational activity on public lands should be increased. This will take money. The percent of growth should be the minimum level of increase for recreational development funding for future programming.” (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, County of Washoe Road Maintenance).
- “USFS, NPS, and BLM (funding) levels, in my opinion, are not adequate for protection of public lands and therefore for fully meeting recreation needs. For example, ORV's have damaged Schell Creek Range and interfered with recreational use by traditional hunters and hikers. For example, NPS (Great Basin National Park) is not funded sufficiently to open road access to higher elevations in winter.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park).

Challenges faced by land management agencies in Nevada

- “We at the BLM not only need more funding, we also need more permanent experienced personnel. There is currently little money or time for future recreation planning.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Winnemucca Field Office).
- “In spite of increased demand for recreation and increased impacts to the environment, there is no additional money to provide enforcement on recreation areas. For instance, ORV use is increasing dramatically but there is no control mechanism or enforcement capability or agency responsibility.” (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Land managers have done little to develop new trails, camp facilities, or other amenities. The existing facilities are not well maintained nor patrolled, and limited public information is available. Lack of money is often cited.” (Member, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).
- “With increased use of public lands for recreation, funding is needed for facilities (i.e. restrooms); maintenance of roads, parking areas and trails; as well as law enforcement to ensure that resources are not vandalized or abused.” (Staff, Resource Concepts).
- “Only by funding more outdoor recreation activities can we hope to gain our access back and to keep what little we have left. Outdoor recreation is part of the future of Nevada and should be recognized as such.” (Citizen, Austin).
- “We have older facilities that need improvement. As more people with more equipment want to use public land, the demand for new facilities, new trails, better information, and increased resource management has gone up dramatically. To address this the land managers and recreation providers need dollars for staff, equipment, land, and facility purchases and development is very much needed.” (Trails Project Coordinator/Designer, Truckee Meadows Trails Association).

Funding affects the provision of outdoor recreation needs and maintenance of existing facilities

- “Improvement of trailhead facilities and trail corridors to correct and remove barriers is important to maintain access. Maintenance of existing facilities and money for reconstruction requires money that is lacking.” (Director of Research and Design, Beneficial Designs).
- “If more money was available, more education, publicity, and recreational uses could be developed. Which could protect sensitive lands and accommodate the outdoor enthusiast.” (Rural Towns Manager, Clark County, Rural Towns).
- “This is a national issue, not just Nevada. Baby Boomers are the most affluent and best-educated segment of society that US history has seen. As this demographic moves into retirement, all recreation providers will feel the inundation of demand for additional and varied recreation opportunities. We need the funding to plan for this inevitability.” (Recreation Program Manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency).
- “There are more projects set aside due to the inadequate amounts of available funding.” (Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association).
- “There is a shortage of funding for both outdoor recreation and education programs.” (Assistant Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Funding for disbursed and community based outdoor recreation is lacking at the local, state, and federal levels. Increased interest in outdoor recreation activity increases the importance of trail systems, park and picnic facilities, and community-based recreation. Our local governments have a difficult time covering the costs of mandated services and have no funds for recreation. Grants are limited and the community must still generate matching funds to access them.” (Coordinator, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council).
- “Funding may or may not be adequate depending on the plan. There is a need for more funding for the Nevada Division of Wildlife for various projects, to allow them to restore and preserve wildlife habitat.” (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).

Prioritizing funding needs and costs

- “A plan is needed to come up with actual needs and costs.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Amounts available are not insufficient, until after the totals have been prioritized. I believe the description should be more a "priority-setting" issue—suggesting more funds would build more recreation if the prioritizers wanted more outdoor recreation than pavement.” (General Manager, Indian Hills General Improvement District).
- “What do Nevadans want in outdoor recreation? We cannot answer the funding questions until we know what is wanted. Some may want nice camping grounds, others may want only access for primitive camping. Hunters and OHV recreationists want little; families and older Nevadans may want and need more

facilities. Who wants to go where? We must understand that first.” (President, Dunes and Trails ATV Club).

- “All sources of funding should be made available to communities through processes accessing open and inclusive planning mechanisms, thereby avoiding duplication and interest conflicts in our many public land communities. Stressed local economies need State help in this effort.” (Private Citizen, Elko).
- “I’m sure that funding will be rather limited now that the economy is not so swift. We need to direct available money to lands and facilities we now have rather than acquiring more holdings that need management and infrastructure. Private development and partnering with private interests for recreation development needs to be encouraged.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “Recreation funds are always the last to be added, the least to be funded, and the first to be cut. With growing populations requesting/demanding more experiences closer to home, the legislature needs to provide/increase funding.” (Founder, Truckee River Yacht Club).
- “September 11th and a slowing economy are going to put enormous pressure on the allocation of government revenues. Our focus will shift to maintaining existing outdoor recreation funding for the next five years.” (Member, Ad Hoc Nevada State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee).
- “The recreation levels in Nevada do not need the expenditures and new additions when the funding drops.” (Nevada State Director, Good Sam Club).
- “New recreational areas are needed but unfortunately it sometimes results in less maintenance of existing areas because of limited funds.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City).
- “Keep recreation development to a minimum to lower costs. Work with state legislature to increase funding of state parks and with Congress to increase recreation funding of public lands.” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).
- “Gain the level of support facilities and services, i.e., roads, sanitation, management to meet the growing demand.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Funds for trails grants are too low to meet the needs to create the paths to enhance our tourism market. Also, ATV’s and 4-wheel vehicles are growing by huge numbers. The existing dollar levels for grants are way too low.” (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).

Funding needed to operate and maintain existing outdoor recreation areas and facilities should be a priority

- “I feel that there is a need to fund the upkeep of facilities that are public.” (Author Unknown).
- “Funding sources are not only inadequate for development and maintenance of recreation facilities, but for their protection. Many of our recreation resources are damaged by a few renegades, such as the Mouse’s Tank walk at Valley of Fire, which now has more graffiti than Petroglyphs. We also have a great need to fund the development of open space recreation opportunities in our urban areas, before

they are gone for good or too costly to restore.” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).

- “I think the most challenging funding aspect is the difficulty in obtaining operating and maintenance funding, versus capital or acquisition funding--though neither of those is easy either. I see that staffing levels are too low to adequately serve the outdoor recreation needs of Nevadans, and that many facilities have fallen into disrepair. The proposed 2002 statewide bond addresses capital projects and acquisition, but will not cover the O&M costs of those projects. I worry most about state parks and local government facilities in rural areas. The legislature needs to recognize the importance of providing quality recreational experiences for both residents and visitors.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).

Funding of outdoor recreation opportunities in rural areas is critical

- “Funding inadequacies are particularly critical in rural areas of the State. Funding alternatives, such as park impact fees, work well in metropolitan areas characterized by accelerated rates for growth. However, they are not practical in the rural communities since the slow pace of growth cannot generate enough revenue within prescribed time frames to finance a project.” (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).
- “Much of the public using Lincoln County recreation sites come from Las Vegas and California. Current day fees for State Parks do not meet expenses and to raise them much would likely decrease usage by local residents.” (Director of Community Development, City of Caliente).

State land management agencies lack a solid funding base

- “State Parks absolutely must have a solid funding base for maintenance of existing parks. Many parks have historic components (Ft. Churchill, Belmont Courthouse) that are well visited but may suffer from increasing numbers of Nevadans looking for outdoor recreational opportunities. As our population increases, so should funding for parks.” (Assistant Director, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office).
- “We need more money and on the ground personnel to maintain and improve our parks and state lands.” (President/Volunteer, Nevada Wildlife Federation).

Recent rapid population increases in Nevada impacts funding

- “Increasing population means increasing demands. We need more recreational professionals and more sites for recreation. More facilities and more personnel.” (Game Warden IV, Eastern Region, Law Enforcement Division, NDOW).
- “Southern Nevada growth (population) is creating public outdoor recreation demands. This demand is not being met with current available funding.” (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).
- “State and Federal funding have not been keeping up with population growth and recreational demands. More funding sources like SNPLMA need to be identified

on a statewide basis, then maybe in ten years we'll catch up with demand.” (Senior Account Representative-Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).

- “The growth of our state means most parks and recreation departments and organizations are actually losing the battle of increasing recreation offerings per capita.” (Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board, City of Henderson).
- “Full time funding staff should be employed, especially as our population continues to increase at record-levels.” (Project Coordinator, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “RCT funding for local park development has not kept up with the demand for new parks created from the growth in population and residential construction. Additionally, funding for park maintenance has not kept up with the development of new parks which has occurred.” (Parks Manager, Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services).

Market outdoor recreation opportunities to Nevadans and out-of-state visitors

- “We need to market our recreation opportunities to both residents and out-of-state residents. We need to support local convention and visitor authorities who market and promote recreation opportunities. We also need to support the Nevada Commission on Tourism's New Adventure Campaign. We need to establish a new funding source to promote motorized recreation. We should model ourselves after the "Green Sticker" program that has been successfully established by the California Off Highway Vehicle Commission. I would be glad to help lead a statewide effort to promote this new funding source for Nevada.” (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).
- “Funds for trails grants are too low to meet the needs to create the paths to enhance our tourism market.” (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).

Potential sources of revenues to address funding shortfalls

- “A way needs to be found to provide long-term funding either through taxes or foundation.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Funding is critical to address current and future needs. This issue needs to be addressed at the highest level and should include participation from municipal, county, state, and federal agencies so no one is left out of the process.” (Park Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “An agency that is dependent upon park bonds for maintenance and development is under funded since these costs should be coming up under general appropriations. To meet public demand and compensate for the public lands, which will inevitably be lost over time, the park needs a substantial general fund increase or a percentage of the Tourism Budget or a dedicated tax. Highway funds might be used for the main roads going into parks. State and local parks should work together to convene blue ribbon committees to discuss the future

funding of parks. Everyone likes parks but there appears to be no primary constituency supporting them. Because of the extensive lobbying conducted for other state funded programs, it is unlikely that parks will ever receive the money it needs without its own support groups. Parks need outside groups and more legislative support to focus on park facilities and services. Parks may also benefit from a private nonprofit support group to obtain larger grants and donations.” (Co-Coordinator, Lahontan Wetlands Coalition).

- “The people who use the recreational area should be willing to pay extra for the privilege. I'm not sure why we senior citizens feel that we should be privileged to pay lower fees. It's nice though.” (President, Sierra Nevada Sams).
- “I believe you should charge for recreation, especially around large cities. People pay for entertainment. They probably would pay to recreate also.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “I believe individual sport groups--archers, hikers, etc.--could group together and help raise funds for outdoor recreation. Funding is inadequate but I do not want to see our taxes raised yet again.” (Private Citizen, Sparks).
- “Demand for more bike trails and hiking trails continues to increase, yet funding sources are stagnant. We need to develop new revenue sources to fund recreation, such as trail user fees, a tax on bike sales for bike trails, etc.” (Outreach Specialist, USFWS—Nevada State Office).
- “New ways to generate funding are needed. However, taxes should be avoided. Some sort of "value" based fees may work. A large proportion of such fees needs to be "plowed back" into the resource.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Some of our taxes might be designated to improve our recreation needs in Nevada.” (President, Pahrump Valley Dust Devils).
- “Funds collected from user fees should go back into that specific recreation area. # 4 When users see that they can make a difference to their specific interest, their contributions of money, services, and labor will increase. Create and define incentives for businesses, non-profit, and # 8 user groups. Federal grant monies should be increased and solicited by legislation. Funding for patrolling illegal uses and land abuses should also be increased.” (Chairman, Nevada All-State Trail Riders).
- “Because of the limited financial resources available to government agencies, agencies are forced to use these resources for essential services and utilities. Consequently, fewer resources are available to develop the outdoor recreation needs of the public. The “residential construction tax” may be collected from developers to finance outdoor recreation, but the amount that may be collected, according to the Nevada Revised Statutes, provides less than a third of the necessary funds.” (Deputy Director, Las Vegas Planning and Development).
- “To protect the land, we need funding to maintain and monitor outdoor uses. Any mechanical craft (boat, bicycle, snowmobile, quadrunner, motorcycle, etc.) should pay for a permit when used on public lands. And in the case of boats, should be inspected before permitted on public water for pollution control. High funding is needed so we can use the land wisely.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).

- “Funding for parks needs to be permanently tied to a percentage of some consistent tax to insure that agencies do not continue on the roller coaster route which can be more detrimental than smaller but consistent funding.” (Director, Churchill County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Fund by user fee and by organized groups--free use should be available to those most responsible in their use.” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).
- “Government entities are going to have to go to some sort of fee charge to bring in additional revenues to help defray the maintenance expenses of recreation areas. Government (elected) needs to realize that ongoing operating expenses have to be appropriated to maintain recreation areas after they are built.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate and Asset Division, City of Las Vegas).
- “Outdoor recreation funding is totally inadequate and innovative funding sources needs to be researched.” (Engineering Technician II, Clark County RPM Department).
- “As a user of these facilities, I would be in favor of higher use fees for everyone that uses them.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).
- “After last year's analysis of the different (Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trail) projects and a shortfall of funding, Nevada is on the short end of the federal gas tax money without anyway to prove it. The State of Nevada needs to prove it. The State of Nevada needs to model a registration program after California or Wyoming so the state can go after the monies that belong to Nevada.” (President, Elko Sno-Goers).
- “Creative funding is needed to sustain current levels of recreation.” (City Manager, City of Yerington).
- “There are other areas that can be developed to ease overloading existing areas without charging the public for access.” (Owner, ATV Adventures).
- “I agree. Nevada needs secure funding for outdoor resources. Right now there is a great need but no funding exist to accomplish those needs.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “One form of outdoor recreation in Nevada is hunting. The sale of hunting licenses supports the Division of Wildlife, which provides game wardens to police and protect wildlife and provide assistance to hunters and outdoor recreationists. The more licenses sold, the more dollars available to support the division of wildlife. This practice is self-defeating.” (Wilderness/Recreation Manager, U.S. Forest Service).

Assessments and suggestions about the Nevada State Legislature

- “Seems like an issue for the state legislature. A fee system for trails would likely cost more than it would provide.” (Retired Employee, U.S. Forest Service).
- “The legislature needs to be convinced to allocate more funds. Probably the casino industry needs to ante up a greater proportion to support the state in which they do business.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “The Nevada State Legislature needs to recognize that recreation is not going away and is a source of income for the state. Residents and visitors using

recreation areas are happy to support these areas and should be asked to do so.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).

- “Most funding for outdoor recreation is through the general fund. That fund continues to decrease thus making the level of funding less. There should be an effort put forward to secure a dedicated funding source for outdoor recreation.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).
- “The State Legislature and local agencies continue to place recreation at the bottom of their “lists” for funding, despite the fact that Nevada bills itself as a tourism and recreation destination. The building of new facilities have often been postponed when economics have taken a downturn; yet when “The Economy” is tight, people will turn to low-cost recreational activities such as camping, hiking, and sightseeing. Nevada State Parks’ (along with other agencies) budget is substantially the same as 15 years ago, while the cost of staffing and providing services to the public has risen.” (Park Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “There is not enough funding at the local/municipal level to complete some major projects. Legislators must look at new legislation on how local governments can increase available dollars to build projects.” (Park Planning Manager, Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department).
- “Help educate local individuals and groups. Reasonable low fees should NOT be increased to “pay” large portions of maintenance (I’m afraid the State might expect this and decrease funding).” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Recreation is not looked on highly by the state government. Business, education and prisons do seem to get the biggest part of funding.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “The Nevada Division of Wildlife receives very little state funding. The majority of our funding comes from grants, license and tag sales, and donations. With a bigger chunk of the state’s budget, we could provide better services to the hunter/angler.” (Boating Access Grants Program Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Users can be called upon to access their local representatives to assure more reasonable funding. But this must be coordinated with, and through, your department. Local and state government are more apt to increase funding when convinced users are doing their part to maintain facilities.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).

Issue # 3: Recreational Trails and Pathways

Population increase in Nevada impact recreational trails and pathways

- “Populations increase. The reality includes a more diverse mix of people, who represent a wider mix of exercise/health needs. It also includes an older population as the life expectancy figures rise. So an older, more diverse population brings a simpler recreation need--therefore trails and walking more than lakes and skiing.” (General Manager, Indian Hill General Improvement District).

- “Population increases are dictating the continued demand for more trails throughout the State. Trail construction costs and long term maintenance funding coupled with obtaining the desired easements are lacking.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Population growth in Nevada will continue unabated. (Have you tried driving in Las Angeles or San Francisco recently?) What will happen when growing need clashes with level or reduced funding?” (Private Citizen and Avid Hiker, Incline Village).
- “Nevada is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, but also has an unlimited amount of undeveloped recreational trails and pathways to meet the increasing demand.” (President, Elko Sno-Goers).
- “A prime example of this issue is the growing demands placed on Douglas County, Carson City, and Washoe County by its growing population base. The desire to recreate on trails in the eastern Sierra front has grown drastically and the above mentioned counties are having difficulty meeting those demands.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).
- “As the Nevada population and visitors increase, there is often congestion on the known trails, severe impacts to the environment due to the heavy use. People will often create their own "trails" to get away from the crowds, thereby creating more new disturbance in an unmanaged and often undesirable way.” (Organization on Environmental Issues, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).
- “As the state grows, the recreational demand grows as well. A few well-placed and maintained trails are better than many trails with no or low maintenance.” (Employee, Resource Concepts).
- “Population growth has only amplified the needs for more recreational trails in the state. In urban areas, recreational trails can usually serve commuter purposes as well. In rural areas, designating trails can help protect scenic resources by channeling trail traffic in designated areas. They need to be recognized by the public and electorate that they always serve more than one purpose and have various benefits - always adding to the community's value.” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).
- “With the population growth comes urban growth. There is a need to maintain recreational trails etc. to provide that type of experience to everyone.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “As the population grows the demand for recreational trails and paths and roads will increase. The public through use, but to maximize the public land resource a master plan of roads, trails, and paths should be developed, implemented, and maintained. The plan should include eventual expansion as demand warrants.” (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, Washoe County Road Division).

One participant does not think the costs to develop and maintain trails are justified.

- “I believe a "few" people and some very far-out planning have placed too much emphasis on trails. The expense of maintaining miles and miles of trail system that are only used by a small portion of the population is enormous. Planning and building a system of trails throughout the valley and state for the sake of

appearing to look good in the public's eye is not worth the dollars expended.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate and Asset Management Division, City of Las Vegas).

One of the greatest assets in Nevada to attract tourists to the state is the natural resource base

- “Nevada's great outdoors is a huge tourism market that needs to be expanded. Northeast Nevada has a strong desire to create recreational trails and walkways to meet the demands of the market that is growing.” (Coordinator, Carlin Economic for the City of Carlin).

Assess the negative as well as the positive impacts

- “An extraordinarily high percentage of Nevada residents say they hike, walk, and/or otherwise participate in activities that require a comprehensive trails system that includes more urban, developed pathways as well as less-developed, more traditional hiking trails. With our growing population, and a push in some areas to promote recreation-based tourism, use will only increase. There is concern over increased negative impacts on existing trails; so new trails need to be provided. Linkages need to occur within and between communities, along river corridors and mountain ranges, etc. Competing uses need to be considered and provided for; hiking and mountain biking, for example, may not be compatible in all areas.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).

Trails planning

- “Right-of-way and trail corridors need to be identified and preserved for trail development and short- and long-term planning.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Is there any way of partnering with the BLM and USFS to increase the number of trails, particularly outside of urban areas? I don't always feel assured that local governments are working with State Parks or federal agencies to develop and maintain trails. And, with all the railroad beds crossing the state, we should have a more active rails-to-trails program.” (Assistant Director, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office).
- “Many people enjoy Nevada because they enjoy the outdoors. Many would like to enjoy the outdoor experience by leaving the urban experience behind. For many that is leaving the comforts, tools, and technologies of the urban environment. Trails, bikeways, and paths are popular because they provide ways to exercise, socialize, train, and to be outdoors. Many states enjoy extensive trails and trail systems. Nevada has the potential and physical resources for such trail systems. The desire is so great for trails that in many areas users are creating their own trails. This is against the law, but these trails in many cases are created without any regard to land ownership, proper planning and trail design.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelmen).

- “As small towns grow and sprawl across the Nevada desert there is a need for transportation alternatives to allow forms of mobility. Cycling, walking, and skating are fun and enjoyable ways to move around the community which need to be planned at the beginning of a towns development.” (Director of Research and Development, Beneficial Designs).
- “Some indicate public lands are being mis-used, but possibly if more trails were developed and publicized, it would deter the off-road users from making their own trails.” (Rural Towns Manager, Clark County, Rural Towns).
- “I believe the urban and nearby rural areas could have developed trails for the people who live in urban areas. But the very rural areas could be so expensive to maintain and the people who visit these areas usually go because the area is not developed!” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “Let's not be prescriptive here—motorized trails are needed more than hiking and biking ways.” (Member, BlueRibbon Committee).
- “Trails should be multi-user, especially in rural areas. User conflict can be addressed and resolved without excluding any user group.” (President, Dunes and Trails ATV Club).
- “Extend trail system opportunities within and adjacent to population centers to create natural zones and byways with easy access. More focus needs to be brought to increasing "physical exercise" and "relaxing experiences" to city dwellers. Investing in planning that incorporates "naturalness" within higher density areas would bring increased rewards of all sorts; less stress, fewer health and social problems, improved aesthetics.” (Private Citizen, Elko).
- “Many recreation trails throughout Nevada's desert have become roads due to motorized vehicles’ free movement. Enforce users to abide by existing road use. Due to increased population, the few trails that do exist in Nevada are crowded causing user conflicts. Development of loop trails and point-to-point connector trails should be increased in these high-density areas. Urban trails and pathways should be a priority in planning, connecting to recreational areas and facilities.” (Trails Chairman, Nevada All-State Trail Riders).
- “Development of recreational trails and pathways can fulfill a number of important functions including transportation, recreational opportunity, water resources, wildlife and habitat observation and preservation and education. Trail and pathway development can also meet the needs of a wide range of user groups from the youth to the elderly including those individuals with physical disabilities and challenges.” (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).
- “The distribution of recreational trails and pathways should be implicit in local bicycle plans and should not be driven by outside sources.” (State Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, Nevada Department of Transportation).
- “The great state of Utah has done a good job and we might be able to see how they have accomplished this. They have great trails for riding, etc.” (President, Pahrump Valley Dust Devils).
- “Recreational trails and pathways need to be planned and identified prior to development. After development has occurred, there is limited right-of-way or corridors for trails and paths and they usually cost more. Trails and pathways

provide alternate means of transportation to places.” (Senior Account Representative—Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).

- “A plan is needed again and then a budget with priorities.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).

Bureau of Land Management provides dispersed outdoor recreation opportunities

- “The majority of BLM public lands in rural Nevada provide dispersed recreation opportunities. In urban areas, BLM offer both dispersed and developed recreational opportunities. The current recreation strategy for the Carson City Field Office (CCFO) is defined in part by BLM's current role or niche in the recreation sector, which is providing undeveloped and dispersed recreation opportunities. This strategy not only provides the public with a variety of recreational opportunities, it also reduces budgetary concerns associated with developed sites. However, recognizing the growing need to address this particular issue, the CCFO has entered into a partnership with various recreation providers to provide the public with consistent information regarding their recreation opportunities.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office).

Education as an essential element to address the trails issue

- “Education must be priority to teach the care of the lands--Leave No Trace, stay on trails and pathways, do not make pioneer roads or trails, do not trash the area.” (President/Volunteer, Nevada Wildlife Federation).
- “Need to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to a growing number of new residents who have little or no knowledge of the State. New residents may have little or no outdoor experience and need an organized trail system to enjoy opportunities.” (Game Warden IV, Eastern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Yes. Trails can act to channel public access into a less intrusive "path" to enjoy the outdoors. Information/education is easier to provide (via trail head, key interest points, etc.). With education comes appreciation and respects.” (Planning Manager, Advanced Planning Division, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Look at Utah (Paiute) Trail. People need to be educated, not kept off of trails. Teach them to be good outdoorsmen. Link trails from area to area (bring recreation back to the outdoors).” (Owner, ATV Adventures).

Need for trails in rural and urban areas differ

- “These are sufficient in Lincoln County.” (Director, Community Development, City of Caliente).
- “Bicycle paths, and the funding to go with them, are good for rural areas.” (City Manager, City of Yerington).

- “There is a real need in urban areas to separate motorized from non-motorized use, i.e. Peavine Mountain. Building permits should include public access provisions for motorized and non-motorized users.” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).
- “The existing trails, especially in urban areas, see heavy use by weekend users. I have seen the use of many trails grow from year to year.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City)
- “This is an issue primarily for more highly populated regions. However, the need for trails in unique geological or floral areas exists statewide.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Urban areas are recognizing this need and supporting green space and trails (Carson City, Douglas County). All areas are struggling with access to existing trails when development occurs in the foothills and blocks previously public access. Citizen advocacy groups for trails are on the increase.” (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

Trail needs

- “Use of recreational trails is one of our most popular forms of recreation.” (Park Planner, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “The most logical way to allow the public to enjoy outdoors and not destroy the environment is to establish trails.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).
- “These pathways are needed for joggers, bikers, rollerbladers, walkers, horse riders, and motorized craft. We want to become a nation of doers, not watchers. Our population is growing quickly. Our trails will become crowded unless we increase them. In addition, in a tourism economy, these trails serve the nation, seeking relief from urban jungles and help the state's local economies.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).
- “Changing lifestyles include more recreational activities for exercise, including the use of trails for walking, jogging, and bicycling. Trail development has been unable to keep pace with this growing demand, especially in the urban community.” (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).
- “By providing recreational trails in urban areas it keeps hikers and bicyclists off the highways and roads solving a safety issue and in rural areas having well marked trails help to keep the same groups from getting lost or disoriented.” (Citizen, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce).
- “There may be a need for some trails. However, if trails are synonymous with unpaved roads, there are thousands of miles in Nevada that serve as trails—don't need more development. Also, roadless areas should remain as is—without trails. Motorized recreation should be on designated trails only or unpaved roads. Existing roads should remain open but development of new roads/ways should NOT be done.” (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).
- “There are more people who have a greater interest in trail use than ever before. Also more types of equipment, motorized and non-motorized, have come on the market. Purchasers want to use their equipment on public lands and this equipment has greater impacts than historic trail users. If trails are not provided,

users will make their own—too many in the wrong places ruins the landscape for all.” (Trails Project Coordinator/Designer, Truckee Meadows Trails Association).

- “These trails need to begin near the communities and offer a variety of opportunities.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office).
- “Key point—growing need. We need trails of all sorts—pedestrian, equestrian, motorized. Supply needs to try to keep up with demand.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Recreation users are changing in rural Nevada from the traditional uses of hunting/fishing and exploring the outback. Today's users are from urban areas and they want marked trails, recreation facilities, brochures, signed roads, and site interpretation. This type of user is used to these enhancements and they expect to see more enhancements even in Nevada's isolated, rural settings.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Station).
- “With the fast paced lifestyle of so many people, the need for recreational trails and pathways increases. The opportunities to connect with Mother Nature are abundant along a trail. There is a flora and fauna, interpretive information, fresh air, wildlife, and quiet time. Trails are physical and mental stress reducers.” (Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association).
- “The "growing need" refers to increased use due to increases in population and decreased open space. I believe this issue should also address the diversity of users, to avoid conflicts between inherently incompatible uses such as snowmobiling and Nordic skiing or snowshoeing.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, National Park Service).
- “This is true as it seems more people are walking, hiking, etc. for 'health.' (Even sidewalks in town would help--but that's not your problem.)” (President, Sierra Nevada Sams).
- “Growing popularity in the "Recreation Lifestyle" is personified in this demand for a particular type of "facility" (trails) which can/are used for daily activities and recreation.” (Recreation Program Manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency)
- “Yes and this goes hand in hand with access. The Las Vegas Valley is a good example of trail needs. Plans are on the board but more needs to be done and get those trails completed.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “As the metropolitan areas grow there is a need to public areas away from the population areas.” (Unknown)
- “People have re-discovered the joys of walking, and also bicycling, along developed trails and/or pathways; it is a low-cost form of recreation and also exercise. While the urban areas are used more intensively by “power-walkers,” many rural residents have also taken up this activity, popularized by many health magazines and organizations (e.g., Prevention). As the population of retiring “baby-boomers” (who seem to be much more fitness-oriented than previous generations) increases in Nevada, this issue will increase in importance.” (Park Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).

- “Again, an obvious unmet and unfunded need, whether for parks, horses or pedestrians.” (Employee, Zephyr Cove Resort).
- “This is the highest need. Our residents selected trails (walking paths) as both their highest interest and highest need.” (Assistant Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Especially keeping the old routes open.” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).
- “Recreational Trails are in abundance, provided by the state as well as the USFS, etc. Additional trails and pathways should be considered only where no other use (i.e., multiple use) can be accommodated. To provide additional trails and pathways solely to accommodate those users that would like to walk a trail and not see another sole the entire day is an unreasonable and unacceptable waste of limited funds.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).

How to provide trails

- “Recreational trails cost money and users need to pay a part of the development and maintenance, and the developers need to lower the quality and quantity of trails to meet the funding. Utilize volunteer help to cut back on spending.” (Nevada State Director, Good Sam Club).
- “Yes, there seems to be a need, both in urban and wild areas. The Truckee River Walk is great and so is the Tahoe Rim Trail. Perhaps there is more opportunity here for volunteer efforts to expand the trail systems. The access issue again is important where private lands are involved and owners will need to be rewarded in some fashion.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “I previously helped provide recreation trails and pathways through marketing efforts as the former Idaho State Travel Director and as Executive Director of the Mammoth Lake Visitor Bureau in California. Funding for these trails could partially come from "Green Sticker Funds" as I previously mentioned. I have good examples on how this could work. We should also look for federal funding under the "Symms Trail Act" (*Author's Note: Replaced by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century which authorized the Recreational Trails Program*)." (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).
- “The appeal and use of trails and paths is still fairly limited, but is growing. It is hard to justify huge expenses on trails that are only used by a small percentage of the people.” (Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board, Henderson Parks and Recreation).
- “Parks and trails (especially bicycle) continue to be the highest priority in surveys we have conducted, but funding has not been forthcoming. Perhaps a percentage of gas tax can be earmarked and a division of NDOT established to build trails throughout the state. The crews and equipment could be already available and save communities contract costs.” (Director, Churchill County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “There are many places where existing low standard routes or trails can be improved or relocated. Many such trails or routes are not known to agency personnel, but can be located through local hiking groups. One very

knowledgeable person in the Tahoe area is John Daegling of the Tahoe City area.” (Retired, U.S. Forest Service).

Developers and landowners are the key

- “Working with private developers and landowners is key here.” (Project Coordinator, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “I believe developers could contribute trails and money for this issue.” (Private Citizen, Sparks).
- “New developments should be required to provide trails in their planning. Access to existing trails should be required, (as well as enforcement of these requirements), and maintenance of existing trails should be determined prior to approval of any new projects. People will pay for outdoor recreation, so assessing fees for trail maintenance is not an outrageous request in home owner/association fees.” (Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Nevada State Office).
- “City governments must through their leadership set minimum standards for developers to require recreational trails and dollars for continued maintenance. Recreational trails are important to the citizens of the community by providing activities to improve the quality of life.” (Park Planning Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department).
- “Designated walk paths in new developments are a good idea, but there exists an opportunity for the State to designate trails for multiple use within the rural areas of Nevada.” (Wilderness/Recreation Manager, U.S. Forest Service).

Connectivity is important

- “Trails to public lands and surrounding opportunities, and their connection to urban trails and corridors is an essential quality of life experience for Henderson residents.” (Park Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Recreation trails is an important passive and active recreational facility for strollers, walkers, and joggers. With the limited financial resources available to government agencies, fewer recreation trails are being established to accommodate the public’s needs. However, the provision of recreation trails is less important to Las Vegas than the provision of transportation trails which are needed for access to recreation areas.” (Deputy Director, Las Vegas Planning and Development).
- “These should be expanded with cooperation between various agencies, i.e., a ring trail/pathway around Carson City, crossing through various jurisdictions. Small State Park-BLM cooperatives--Trail/Pathways in areas, i.e., Pinenuts at various springs or end of road locations, i.e. Johnson Lane.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Rural and urban trails and pathways are needed throughout the state and as much connection between the two should be addressed.” (Engineering Technician II, Clark County RPM Department).

- “City residents wish to have urban trails which connect parks and existing trail systems. However, funding and/or available rights-of-way are not available for construction.” (Parks Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation, and Community Services).
- “Trails provide opportunities for many recreationists--motorized, non-motorized. Also provide linkages between points of interest, parks, and other lands. Trails provide opportunities for viewing wildlife, experiencing solitude, getting exercise (good health), traveling off roads--a safety issue.” (Founder, Truckee River Yacht Club).
- “Coordination of connectivity of trails systems between agencies.” (Acting Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “The Truckee River needs a bike path, angler access path along the Truckee River between the stateline and Wadsworth. Washoe County Parks has already addressed this issue for a section of this path (sewage treatment plant to Mayberry, with plans to continue to Verdi).” (Boating Access Grants Program Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

Negative side of trails

- “If sufficient funds are not available for monitoring use of trails, the state should not be involved. However, with partnerships between federal, state (NDOW), or local parks agencies sufficient law enforcement may be available to provide trails. The problem with trails is OHV use and abuse of trails; and conflicts between hikers, mountain bikers, horse use, and OHV use. Trails, like roads, are the passageways for weeds and may increase chances of fire. Trails require an extension of agency management which otherwise might be centralized in smaller areas.” (Co-Coordinator, Lahontan Wetlands Coalition).

Issue # 4: Balancing the Protection of Nevada’s Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Resources with Users

Respondents liked the way the issue was stated

- “The above paragraph says it all (referring to the issue statement)!” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Above issue says it all.” (President/Volunteer, Nevada Wildlife Federation).
- “Couldn’t have said it better myself.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Adequate—no additions.” (Engineering Technician II, Clark County RPM Department).
- “I have nothing to add.” (Outreach Specialist, USFWS—Nevada State Office).
- “Agree.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Great ideas.” (Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board, Henderson Parks and Recreation).

Opposition to protection as a means to lock up or close areas to certain types of outdoor recreation use

- “Fine, ok. Get the users involved, but no more closures to “protect.” That’s just a way to shut out motorized users.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Don’t lock away to protect.” (President, Dunes and ATV Club).
- “Citizens are being blamed, but not asked to help solve the problem. In areas where self-monitoring and citizen participation has been encouraged, the public land has prospered and less of the attitude “keep the public” away to save the land.” (Rural Towns Manager, Clark County, Rural Towns).
- “How does one rationalize using public tax funds to buy “open space” if the space cannot then be “open” for public use? It otherwise amounts to public dollars protecting a view of a limited number of residents who happen to buy property alongside “open space.” Open the space to use and users will protect it for themselves.” (General Manager, General Improvement District).
- “Some special places will have to be off limits or used for recreation only with close supervision. The issue here is why close or limit access to large areas with the “protection” reason when only specific locations really need protection?” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).

Protection of the resource at the expense of access to certain outdoor recreationists

- “Protection of the natural, cultural and biological resources can best be achieved by not creating more trails and roads. Restoring riparian areas preventing further soil erosion and establishing wilderness areas are most beneficial for the resources. People like Nevada because of open spaces and scenic views. Development will spoil that.” (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).
- “The text explaining this category is somewhat contradictory. Fees dedicated to a park generally go into increased maintenance, facilities, and management costs. They normally do not go into protecting the natural resources. Natural and cultural resources should be protected. The issue of access to areas versus the ability to adequately protect those resources from human intrusion and abuse is the problem.” (Co-Cordinator, Lahontan Wetlands Coalition).
- “Need to recognize that Nevada's public lands are a national treasure and that most Nevadans strongly support protecting these values. Do not let the small minority of consumptive users dictate how our lands are managed.” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).
- “Some uses are incompatible with protection, i.e. the resource will not survive for future generations if used that way. Creating opportunities for users as stewards increases the scope and quantity of protection by educating users and adding numbers of stewards to the agency personnel. Keeping most fees in the area allows protection activities and projects due to increased funding and “ownership” by user constituencies.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park).
- “It has been my experience that this type of participation comes from urban areas, so it's best to stay there. These people have good intentions but have destroyed

some of the history of rural areas. We have had some experience with these people. Not good for preservation! (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).

Balancing recreational use with resource conservation

- “Key point—in balance with users. We need to protect special places, but when the "best" are protected, allow users access to other lands.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “A Master Plan which properly identifies natural, cultural, and scenic resources should include methods to provide public access while preserving the resource.” (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, County of Washoe Road Division).
- “Resource protection is necessary to preserve the very elements that the outdoor recreationists is seeking. Fees paid at a recreation area should remain with that area for site improvement and maintenance. User groups could drastically reduce maintenance costs as well as resource impacts by using Nevada's natural resources with respect and responsibility. Protection of natural, cultural, and scenic resources should only be as stringent as necessary to protect the resources for future generations.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, BLM Tonopah Field Station).
- “Resources and users need to be in balance, however, rural projects should not go unfunded because they wouldn't serve a large enough amount of people.” (City Manager, City of Yerington).
- “Not only should fees stay, but the people should stop being looked at as destructive and start asking groups of these people to help in projects. To help these areas involve them and they will remember.” (Owner, ATV Adventures).
- “With regard to resource protection, most people I have contacted think trails will herd users into corridors away from sensitive resources. However, many of our resources, especially historic/archeological resources near urban areas, are very susceptible to vandalism, theft, or encroachment. As the sites are more and more publicized, the only way to protect them is through aggressive development. This may best be accomplished using strong grassroots support to develop monitored/secure trail systems that provide access without completely disturbing the site(s).” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).
- “Protection to preserve for the future is in direct conflict with the majority of users. It only takes a few careless users to destroy a resource. Education, public participation and active professional enforcement are critical to insuring the preservation of the resource.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “The definition of "balance" is a sensitive one and needs to be carefully addressed. User buy-in to participate in the protection could be achieved in a number of ways. Although fees should generally be made available to the areas that generate them, many less used areas have needs as compelling as other areas but not the available funds. Therefore, the establishment of a Capital Improvements Plan program with public input in the development of the program

should occur.” (Organization on Environmental Issues, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).

- “There must be some restrictions to access. Some areas can be set aside for users with specific interests. Education of the public for the preservation of resources and make them responsible for their actions is a must. The fees collected in an area should largely be used in that area to maintain and improve it. This will be an investment for future development.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).
- “Protection of resources are needed, and most users are not there to destroy, but just enjoy.” (Nevada State Director, Good Sam Club).
- “Protection of natural, cultural, and scenic resources should be priority two to recreation development including trails. The public should be involved in developing ways to provide that protection to make them stewards in the process.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Nevada has a lot of natural, cultural, and scenic resources that can be both protected and at the same time better marketed to our residents and visitors. These resources could be marketed along with recreational trails and give visitors more resources to visit certain areas. This would offer a greater variety of reasons for people to travel to Nevada. Again these resources need to (be) better marketed through local Convention and Visitors Authorities in partnership with the Nevada State Parks.” (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).
- “As an area (White Pine County) with significant natural, cultural, and scenic resources; a low population base; and growing visitorship and use by residents from Southern Nevada, it is critical to have sufficient resources to maintain our resources for current and future use.” (Coordinator, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council).
- “Use fees to protect resources.” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).

User education as a means to protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources

- “The public needs to be educated on the fragile nature of many of Nevada's resources. A site stewardship program would also be helpful—volunteers working with State Parks to note changes in sensitive areas.” (Assistant Director, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office).
- “More public education is needed to inform people of the importance of protecting natural, cultural and scenic resources. The assessment of a fee with the knowledge that the fee is being used for the protection of resources will compel persons to be more restrained in the use of these resources.” (Deputy Director, Las Vegas Planning and Development).
- “This would be an educational process and it is unlikely that the "out-of-area" users could be impacted by any educational efforts. I like the idea of a site steward, particularly for petroglyph sites. Such would likely best work under supervision of local State Parks supervisors.” (Director, Community Development, City of Caliente).

- “It is stated well above to combine education and a sense of partnership in protecting these resources.” (Director, Churchill County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “It is important to educate the public as to the protection of resources and one of the ways of doing that is to allow them to participate in its upkeep and care.” (Author Unknown).
- “Protection of these resources should include education of the users.” (Employee, Resources Concepts).
- “Effective public education is needed.”
- “Educational kiosks and brochures are key in helping users understand the importance of protecting our natural, cultural, and scenic resources.” (Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association).
- “Identify critical areas in need of immediate protection. Signage would be helpful in educating the public on responsibility and enforcing the law against abuses, i.e., fines, impoundment, etc.” (Trails Chairman, Nevada All-State Trail Riders).

More active law enforcement to protect outdoor recreational resources

- “We need stronger laws and regulations to help protect these resources. There (are) many willing citizens that would volunteer to participate in this.” (Park Planner, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).

Someone must pay for public and private outdoor recreation goods and services

- “Citizens understand that nothing comes free now. So they understand that their help is needed either financially or by participation.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “I absolutely agree people who want to benefit from these things should contribute.” (Private Citizen, Sparks).
- “A rational nexus needs to exist between the users of natural, cultural, and scenic resources with that of the costs to maintain, and expand them.” (State Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, Nevada Department of Transportation).

Concerns and cautions about fees

- “These fees should only be implemented if serious and detrimental consequences would arise if nothing were to be done. Local interest groups and user groups can provide money and resources if they are given the opportunity. At the national level, recreation user fees are likely to be offset by decreases in congressional appropriations, causing no net increase in recreation funding. Some members of Congress have explicitly stated that fees should replace general appropriations to pay for trails and other recreation facilities on public lands. Although other members have promised that fees will not offset appropriations, it is very possible that these offsets could occur. Recreation user fees also present a problem for the nation's poor and middle class.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelmen).

- “Thinking people will be 'site stewards' is dreaming. Fees need to be charged, but kept very inexpensive. It is each government's duty to appropriate the manpower and other resources necessary for the protection of our natural resources and clean up behind the users everyday. Fees could be used to pay a small portion of these expenses.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate and Asset Management Division, City of Las Vegas).
- “I am concerned about charging fees. It can be abused if the rate does not reflect the economic demographics of the surrounding area (and majority of users). The result would be lower use and in turn less income/revenue. It could also result in heavier use of less maintained areas where there are no fees.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City).
- “I understand the need for fees but low income people are being eliminated from using state facilities. We need a better way to fund our recreational facilities.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “On-site funding is fine, however, other areas not as close to urban areas or as popular should not suffer. They are often equally important resources.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office).
- “The investment and allocation should go where the highest need is regardless of where the money was generated.” (Assistant Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “On the vast, open BLM lands it is difficult to enforce payment. It could be done on a voluntary basis. We need more personnel for education and enforcement if we are going to try to further protect the resources from growing visitor use.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office).

Importance of keeping fees in the areas in which they are collected

- “Good ideas. Especially keeping fees in the recreation area where they are generated. Education is key to getting people to participate in conservation. Some fees need to be used for this purpose.” (Planning Manager, Advanced Planning Division, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Anytime fees that are paid and stay in that recreation area is a positive. Getting participation by users, site stewards, and the citizens should be an important issue.” (President, Elko Sno-Goers).
- “Most of the fees collected for outdoor recreational use go into government general funds. This fund is mostly used for non-governmental projects, programs, and activities. The public would be more willing to pay current, or higher, fees if they understand and know that the fees would be used for O&M and development of the recreational site or facility.” (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).
- “Make users believe their fees are a direct contribution from them to protection of these resources.” (Private Citizen and Avid Hiker, Incline Village).
- “Many resources are being lost to development with no funds for saving or protecting them for future generations. If fee areas are designated--would support fees staying on site as long as resources are protected/conserved for future

enjoyment. Not everything needs to be hardened, "enhanced," paved--natural is ok." (Founder, Truckee River Yacht Club).

- "The natural, cultural, and scenic resources are the very elements that engender the desire for recreational experience and accessibility to public lands. Responsible management and stewardship would appear to dictate that fees collected for a particular recreation area stay in that area for improvements, operations, and maintenance." (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).
- "These expressed concerns and values can be built into community based planning and should be encouraged for full public participation. Portioning fee structure to support site maintenance is sensible and will encourage more involvement by neighboring communities." (Private Citizen, Elko).

How to raise or handle fees

- "Individual state agencies are responsible for fighting the battle to establish user-fees on areas. This is a difficult arena, and the actual dollars raised through voluntary fee boxes is negligible. An all-agency fee would ease administrative burdens and provide bountiful access (a card would establish access rights to all state-owned lands, including state parks, museums, wildlife management areas, etc.). Specific uses for money raised would need to be identified and published." (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- "Conservation of Nevada's resources can be capitalized to bring in more tourism dollars by allowing visits to these areas through a plan to protect and enhance the areas, and by using volunteerism and facilities the BLM/USFS/State Parks already have in place. We could learn to utilize these areas more and use the money to help develop other areas for preservation and viewing." (Citizen, Greater Austin Area Chamber of Commerce).
- "We have found camp hosts to be very helpful. It would even be better if they really took an interest in the area and learned more of the history and culture of it." (President, Sierra Nevada Sams).
- "Public/private partnerships have been proven as a viable means of funding as well as increasing awareness of needs. This factor should be used as a major determination in expenditure of limited funds, and also in other forms of assistance." (Park Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- "Many of the people who worked on the Tahoe Rim Trail crews were not worried about any financing except for equipment needed to do the work." (Retired Employee, U.S. Forest Service).
- "The only approach that is sensible—Tahoe Rim Trail a good example." (Citizen, Zephyr Cove Resort).

Federal fee demonstration areas

- "The federal government has a fee demo program for the BLM and the Forest Service. This concept could be expanded to Nevada." (Wilderness/Recreation Manager, U.S. Forest Service). (The Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area

in Clark County is a fee demonstration area administered by the Bureau of Land Management).

Key points about the funding issue

- “Several state and federal land management agencies have developed site-steward and volunteer programs, and Nevada State Parks has active volunteer organizations in most of their regions. More emphasis needs to be put on the secondary portion of this issue, that is, the mandate to keep monies collected from fees in the parks or recreational areas where they are collected; and the State Legislature needs to be made more aware of the ways other agencies are dealing with funding recreation areas. The federal “Fee Demonstration Program” has established a solution to keeping funding in the areas where monies are collected; Nevada State Parks’ “surcharge account” is a start, although it is a “penny in the bucket” approach.” (Park Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).

Ownership or “buy-in” of a recreational area or site

- “People whom are given the feeling of “ownership” (stewardship) are more willing to pay for and maintain “their” opportunities because they do not want to degrade, let alone lose, those opportunities.” (Recreation Program Manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency).
- “Absolutely. To get the people involved with caring for the land builds a connection and love of nature that nourishes our souls. Schools can have projects to help. Businesses can help by allowing paid employee volunteer time. We are all citizens and stewards of this planet. The opportunity to help is a reward in itself.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).
- “Public buy in and awareness of problems associated with above resources increases protective attitude of user groups. Decreases manpower and costs to public agencies to provide same level of protection of resources.” (Game Warden IV, Eastern Region, Law Enforcement Division, Nevada Department of Wildlife).
- “Land managers in partnership with user groups need to develop opportunities for user ownership in the protection of natural resources.” (Senior Account Representative—Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).
- “I believe the bottom line has to do with a missing sense of ownership and personal responsibility for the existence and condition of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources in our state. The connection will continue to degrade as we become more and more urbanized and removed from the outdoors. More citizen participation can happen in this area with increased education regarding resource values and their role in protection and what will happen without it. Friends groups might be developed and called on to perform site stewardship. The fee structure should be analyzed to ensure that the recreational resources have first crack at what they generate, but that less-popular areas do not suffer as a result. In all cases, explain the “why” to people to gain their support.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).

- “Everyone has to step forward no matter at which level and protect the state's resources. Legislation must be kept current to keep up with the times.” (Park Planning Manager, Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department).

Planning, partnerships, coordination, and cooperation

- “Agencies need to identify these natural, cultural, and scenic resources and attempt to protect them. Sometimes partnerships can be formed to assist in developing protection coalitions. In other areas maybe additional taxes may have to be secured, similar to the Carson City Open Space Tax.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Resource Advisory Councils, Technical Review Teams and the BLM's volunteer program are some of the current programs in which the public is involved with managing and protecting public land resources. User and volunteer groups (i.e., Friends of Silver Saddle, Friends of Sand Mountain) must be organized and be prepared to invest time in planning, implementation, public education and maintenance efforts. The National Fee Demonstration Program allows participating BLM offices to collect fees and reinvest collected revenues back into the site of collection.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Carson Field Office).
- “Coordination/collaboration with all necessary agencies/tribes/governments.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “We are working on an open space plan to address these issues. What about a countywide (Clark County) plan?” (Acting Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Communities such as ours are striving for cleaner resources. Public land officials need to strive to decrease illegal dumping. Create a fund/grant source that would assist communities to clean up these areas. Last year, this community participated in a volunteer cleanup of public lands adjacent to and visible from I-80. It cost the City hundreds of dollars to clean this section of lands with volunteers. This practice could be expanded with monetary assistance.” (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).

Issue # 5: Protecting Water Resources as Vital Components of Nevada's Recreational Base

Better water conservation

- “Water resources in Nevada are at a premium. Water should be managed to protect fish/wildlife, visitor use, and noxious weed control. I have lived in central Nevada for 27 years. *I must say that for a state that has so little surface water, you would think that the use and care of that resource would be much better* (emphasis added).” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office).

Difficulty of dealing with the water issue

- “This could be the toughest of all problems facing Nevada. Water resources are vital. They will become scarce. The demands will grow exponentially.” (Private Citizen and Avid Hiker, Incline Village).

The water issue

- “As the population of Nevada increases, so does the demand for water in this arid state. In addition, the demand for water-based recreation facilities and activities (fishing, boating) has also increased. While Lake Mead National Recreation Area is a popular area, many people prefer to go to cooler areas to fish, boat, camp, and relax during the hot summer months. New facilities are badly needed in the more rural areas of the state, and the needs of wildlife need to be balanced with the increased facilities developed around lakes and streams in rural areas. Many people think only in terms of “hunnable” wildlife (deer, elk, antelope, ducks and birds), but non-game species also depend on the water resources which are quickly disappearing as urban development spreads and springs are tapped or wells are drilled for urban uses.” (Park Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Water resources are a large issue. There is a strong need to protect our water resources.” (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).
- “Alpine and On-Ditch Decrees of the U.S. Supreme Court are multi-decade challenges that come from people competing amongst people for rights to use water. (They) also suggest the folly of trying to maintain static water flow rates or lake levels in the desert!” (General Manager, Indian Hills General Improvement District).
- “We always need to keep in mind that Nevada is a desert state. I still question the continued inclusion of large areas of green areas in parks that have no particular recreation purpose.” (Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board, Henderson Parks and Recreation).
- “In a high desert region, water resources are even more desirable than in other regions.” (Park Planner, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Low levels of water in Lake Mead are a huge concern. Small rivers are also drying up. (I’m) not sure what the solution is.” (Rural Towns Manager, Rural Towns, Clark County).
- “Water for agriculture is an important part of this State, too.” (City Manager, City of Yerington).

Private property rights and the right to engage in water-related outdoor recreation activities

- “Protecting from whom or what? Taking a water resource away from a farmer or rancher who may own such? Wayne Hage comes to mind. Overuse and ABUSE of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) must cease. Humans have rights, too. Let's

have responsible, common sense multiple use of the land. Do not put in place exclusionary rules or rules that promote the taking of private property.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).

- “We water recreation users of Nevada need to maintain our right to use jet skis on our lake and Colorado River same as 2-cycle boat motors. These newer jet skis are less pollutant than the old outboards. This probably does not pertain to this issue but is important to us.” (President, Pahrump Valley Dust Devils).

Water resources as the focal point for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities

- “Water resources are perhaps the most critical element of the States' recreational base. Recreational projects associated with water features should include criteria that provide for the enhancement of the water resource and expose the resource to the public, thus affording opportunity to observe, explore, inform, and educate. Water resource protection is even more critical in urban areas where special efforts are needed to preserve the essence and integrity of these features for current and future generations.” (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).
- “Water is a precious resource in Nevada. Water, like trails, needs to be managed to provide the recreational users the resource they desire while protecting the resource and environment. Each individual area needs to be considered with overall goals in mind, then considered in its local context.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelmen).
- “Without water we would not have any recreational opportunities. We need to do everything we can to protect our water resources.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Division, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Lakes, streams, and rivers are the main attractions to Nevada outdoor recreationists. When the state is allocating water for beneficial use, it appears that recreation is not considered.” (Wilderness/Recreation Manager, U.S. Forest Service, Tonopah).
- “Water related recreation is suffering due to the shrinking supply of resources. Areas such as the Stillwater Refuge, Walker Lake, and Pyramid Lake are showing the effects of water being diverted for other use. Something needs to be done to help stop this trend or at least slow it down.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Water resources are critical and valued. One, water based areas draw public recreation users and two, the limited areas of available water in the arid Mojave and Great Basin Deserts create competing interests for recreation use and ecological system balance.” (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).
- “Access to water resources is important to persons with disabilities who once on the water have extended mobility in various types of watercraft. Access to rivers and lakes on fishing platforms should be increased.” (Director of Research and Development, Beneficial Designs).

- “As the State continues to grow in population, the available water for recreation (fishing, boating, and wildlife) must be protected and maintained at a high quality.” (Game Warden IV, Eastern Region, Law Enforcement Division, Nevada Department of Wildlife).
- “Looking at this from a pure recreation standpoint, water resources and issues are generally a different category than recreation. Certainly new access points (areas) cannot be opened at the expense of water quantity and quality. Almost without exception, though, multiple use areas do not presently impede water accessibility.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Highly unlikely that any program would be financed for increasing water availability to recreation sites in Lincoln County due to vastness of geography and scarcity of population.” (Director, Community Development, City of Caliente).
- “I personally am not interested in water-based recreation (fishing/boating) but I am very concerned about our riparian areas as open space and recreation centers in both urban and rural areas. In all areas of this dry state there are wildlife conduits and habitats, and naturally attract human activities as well. Recreational trails offer a solution to our thirst for water. They allow public access to water and riparian areas with less disturbance to the resource.” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).

Balancing uses of water

- “Recreation and wildlife are not mutually exclusive.” (President, Dunes and Sands ATV Club).
- “The water resources in Nevada are used by many. The recreation and wildlife should be protected with this in mind.” (Nevada State Director, Good Sam Club).
- “Water resources should be protected for wildlife and fisheries. They should also be promoted for recreation opportunities for hunting, fishing tournaments, etc. We had a successful fishing derby at South Fork State Recreation Area this past June in conjunction with the Mining Expo. We need more of these kinds of promotions on our public water resources.” (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).
- “We can't allocate all of our water to urban areas. Water needs to be set aside in reservoirs, lakes, and streams for recreation and wildlife habitat.” (Assistant Director, Nevada State Historical Preservation Office).
- ““Recreation” and “wildlife” in the same sentence seems a little contradictory. However, I do agree that wildlife depends on limited water resources.” (Planning Manager, Advanced Planning Division, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Numerous water sources are necessary to provide adequate distribution and capacity of water for trail users, and are absolutely essential to riparian and wildlife eco system health.” (Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association).
- “Any natural lakes and wetlands need to be maintained as is not only for recreation, but for the wildlife that depends on it.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).

- “Balance conflicts over water which is scarce. Wildlife vs. people, water quality vs. use as in swimming, boating, jet skiing etc. Quality is hardest to maintain when people heavily use an area. No new resources are likely, so existing water bodies need to be maintained for more users.” (Founder, Truckee River Yacht Club).
- “Where water resources are limited, as for wild horses, maybe a long-term source should be developed and provided as part of the land management process. The public should be made aware of ways to protect our water resources--desert dumping etc., needs to be a huge campaign.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Water is important, especially for wildlife. The growing population of wild horses and their destruction of small streams could be a real issue. But recreation could be a water quality problem.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “As with the other issues described herein, the key to the success will be a balanced perspective on the importance of water resources for recreation and wildlife as compared to other necessary uses of water. The approach should be sustainable.” (Organization on Environmental Issues, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).
- “Similar to issue # 2, however, this is water resource specific. Still, it's striking a balance between sometimes competing entities, goals, philosophies, and funding.” (Recreation Program Manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency).
- “The issue is balancing available water with needs for agriculture and mineral production as well as urban use. This will require special efforts for a win-win outcome here in the driest state. Water conservation will be an important element.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “With so little water in Nevada, it is essential that the quality and quantity be maintained for a variety of uses from wildlife habitat to recreation, with care taken so as not to negatively impact the wildlife needs.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).
- “Recreation and wildlife are not always compatible uses especially in state parks where the emphasis is on recreation versus wildlife and natural resource protection. To the extent feasible State Parks should be purchasing water rights and property located along water sources. Water is essential for human use in the parks and is the highest amenity value for people enjoying parks. People like to walk along water, sit by water, and look out over water. Wildlife resources also need water but they also need space, quiet, and the absence of human intrusion.” (Co-Coordinator, Lahontan Wetlands Coalition).
- “How can Walker Lake be managed to ensure an adequate water supply for recreationists, fish, etc? How can our sensitive riparian areas be managed for quality fishing and improved water quality and quantity?” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).

Wildlife and other uses of water should be a higher priority than outdoor recreation

- “I would like to see wildlife get higher consideration than public recreation. We do have limited water and we need to protect the quantity and quality.” (Private Citizen, Sparks).
- “Wildlife should be # 1 for water use. People need to learn that camping, etc. near water is to be avoided at all cost—fines!” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).
- “Recreational use of water should be a second priority to delivering water to urban and rural consumers.” (Assistant Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).

Importance of education as a means to address this issue

- “Education is critical.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office).
- “Public education again is important. Consequences of diverting water to new residential and commercial development should be disclosed so that priorities can be set and decisions made.” (Projects Coordinator, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “More education is needed on how our waters are allocated to help people better understand the "drain" that agriculture has on our watersheds. Growing water-intensive crops like alfalfa, and raising non-native livestock, is placing our watersheds in a very untenable condition. Providing incentives to change crops, sell water rights, and reduce water waste (meters) is needed.” (Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada State Office).
- “Guzler and Sutch have grant money's that are for that. They have groups going out and working on them already. Involve more of everyday type people to learn what you're doing. This is education.” (Owner, ATV Adventures).
- “We must protect the quality of the water that we have in Nevada. Education is again one of the ways of making the public aware of the importance of this issue.” (Author Unknown).

Ways to conserve water resources in Nevada

- “Best management practices of activities in Nevada's landscapes hold the highest potential of providing water quality and quantity now and into the future.” (Private Citizen, Elko).
- “Water conservation - irrigation practices and use of drought tolerant plant material in public areas.” (Acting Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Any recreation access roads and trails must be located and maintained so as to prevent erosion into stream channels or lakes.” (Retired Employee, U.S. Forest Service).
- “From our viewpoint, the creative way Nevada has accessed what water resources we have has developed numerous areas with recreational potential. Perhaps

instead of litigating to take that water back and use it for urban development, we should regulate urban conservation and agricultural use to protect and use as a community resource, i.e. trails along irrigation roads, limited lawns allowed in urban areas.” (Director, Churchill County Parks and Recreation Department).

- “Water resources should be protected through conservation easements, greenbelts and the like. A wide buffer should be placed around streams and creeks to maintain wildlife corridors and proper functioning condition of the water resources.” (Employee, Resource Concepts).
- “In an arid landscape water resources have enhanced values due to their rarity. Both wildlife and the people of Nevada thrive only as the water resources of the state thrive. The BLM recognizes the role clean and abundant water plays in the economic and ecologic health of the state. To maintain and enhance the health of water resources the BLM encourages responsible use of lands adjacent to riparian areas. This helps preserve water quality by preventing soil erosion and disturbance caused by channel diversions and excess road and trail use beside riparian areas.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office).
- “Money must be found to help irrigators change to crops that are C-Y plants that use less water. Our water is dedicated over 100% in many areas to irrigators. Money must be found to buy back water rights from willing sellers with that water going to wildlife and recreation.” (President/Volunteer, Nevada Wildlife Federation).
- “Water is a limited resource and everything must be done at the local level to protect and conserve the most precious resource in an arid state.” (Park Planning Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department).

Better planning, coordination, cooperation, and partnerships to conserve water resources

- “Due to the limited nature of water resources in Nevada, a comprehensive planning and enhancement activity to protect the existing resources while maximizing the utilization will be required. Adequate planning and funding will be essential.” (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, Washoe County Road Division).
- “A comprehensive strategy that factors recreational water needs into the statewide picture needs to be developed.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Collaboration with all agencies/organizations/groups to establish a plan.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Consider a cooperative development with multiple agencies. Also dual human/wildlife use--Taylor Creek is an extremely well done dual use.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Need to maintain relationships with private land owners who control access to fishable waters.” (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

- “Water resources need to be jointly managed for the maximum benefit of multiple users.” (Senior Account Representative-Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).
- “Reno’s lakes and ponds are all fed from the Truckee River through irrigation ditches. The water supplied by these ditches is no longer sufficient to maintain the water quality of our lakes & ponds; also, as the number of downstream users diminish, the possibility exists that the private owners/operators of the ditches will abandon them.” (Parks Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services).
- “Particularly in Southern Nevada, water is a critical issue that can not be ignored, and indeed must be made an integral part of any grant funding analysis as well as assurance that water rights and users will be minimally impacted by the proposed project.” (Parks Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Water resources for all users is a critical issue for our area and it is increasingly important for the community to have the expertise to understand and work with all aspects of water resources. As concerns over water use within and potentially exported outside our boundaries increase, it is important to retain a focus on the need to sustain our environmental quality to protect the resources important to wildlife, recreation, and quality of life and recognize them as beneficial uses of our water resources.” (Coordinator, White Pines County Economic Diversification Council).

Amount of control over water resources

- “Water is a critical part of maintaining almost every type of public recreation facility. Government units should have more access to their own resources through wells for this purpose. The State and the Water District have far too much say-so regarding a land owners mineral asset of water for government use.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate and Asset Management Division, City of Las Vegas).
- “Water resources are vital to the sustenance of recreation and wildlife. Consequently, it is imperative that water resources not only be protected but that a greater emphasis be placed on the use of reclaimed water. Greater emphasis on government regulation may be necessary to effectuate better water resource conservation.” (Deputy Director, Las Vegas Planning and Development).
- “I believe this issue is important if common sense is used and the Endangered Species Act is not abused.” (President, Elko Sno-Goers).
- “This state needs to make a commitment to providing, protecting, and conserving water resources for all life. If left to private interests, these interests will dispose of water to enhance their own interests which rarely coincide with the public and resource/wildlife interests. Parks can provide leadership and management coordination and acquisition.” (Trails Project Coordinator/Designer, Truckee Meadows Trail Association).
- “The fight to issue the availability of water for recreation and wildlife is a primary concern. Federal and State entities need to establish a higher value on the

recreation benefits of water based recreation and enact legislation to achieve that value.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).

The importance of water

- “Life needs water to live.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Not just a quantity issue, but quality important as well. Development in urban areas are straining this limited resource.” (Employee, Zephyr Cove Resort).
- “Reservoirs such as Lahontan and Rye Patch should have minimum pools established to protect aquatic life. Rivers such as the Truckee should have minimum flows established to protect aquatic life, riparian vegetation, and corresponding aquatic wildlife.” (Boating Access Grants Program Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Preserve water resources wherever possible. This will improve recreational opportunities and improve wildlife access in sensitive areas. In planning new recreational areas and trails, water resources should be a priority.” (Trails Chairman, Nevada All-State Trail Riders).
- “Besides monitoring and reducing water pollution, water is the staff of life. Life needs to have first rights to water. Wild horses which live with very little water inspire the spirit of our nation. We need to provide them water uncontested by ranchers. It would be a poor planet if there was no wildlife. We need more conservation, even in wet years, so this water can be shared by all. Life has to come before recreation.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).
- “Nevada has the least of amount of rain. Water resources must be protected, especially spring and riparian areas. Also solutions must be found to protect Walker Lake to maintain or improve its water level and water quality.” (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).

Base decisions to allocate and conserve water resources on good science

- ““Protection” must be based on good science, not hype and exaggerations. Water is vital to Nevada, but shouldn't unnecessarily limit recreation.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Wise application of protective measures are called for, not a one sided approach by special interests. Steps taken must be supported by unbiased scientific studies.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City).
- “The political tension between (1) demand by growing urban water users and (2) protection of natural resources for the future and for recreation makes protection very difficult for agencies. Ultimately, human society worldwide must face and answer this tension in favor of protecting resources and setting limits on consumption. Agencies need support and research to answer this question.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, National Park Service).

Issue # 6: Interpretation and Education for Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Respondents agreed with the issue statement

- “Above says it all.” (President/Volunteer, Nevada Wildlife Federation).
- “Yes, Yes, Yes.” (Planning Manager, Advanced Planning Division, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “I think this is very important.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Division, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

Planning

- “Determine first how much of this is really wanted by Nevadans.” (President, Dunes and ATV Club).
- “Again, survey appropriate agencies, organization. Write plan, set priorities, set budgets.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Education is the first step to preservation and protection of environmental and cultural resources. The Great Basin provides excellent opportunities.” (Employee, Resource Concepts).
- “Accessible in different formats. Tactile experiences for people with visual impairments. Interpretive information can provide accessibility information that allows families to make safer choices about where to go and when.” (Director of Research and Development, Beneficial Design).
- “Interpretation and education are essential and absolutely necessary to inform outdoor recreationists of the many aspects of our resources all around us.” (Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association).

Potential sources and means to fund actions to address this issue

- “Fund” is the key word. “Encourage” may be the operative word in the near future.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “The local school districts, state, county, and city offices are necessary to provide individuals to promote outdoor recreation and other factions that relate to it and the general public. More funding is needed at all levels.” (Park Planning Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department).
- “The key to the health of Nevada's Park System and the wealth of resources on federal land is education and interpretation. A fund should be established from the tourism dollars to encourage use, protect, and interpret these resources.” (Director, Churchill County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “These can be done through bond issues and should be fortified with more developer impact fees.” (Project Coordinator, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Educational/interpretive functions of managers in recreational areas need to establish a higher priority to gain the funding and programming to actively

promote educational programs. Putting the emphasis on budgeting to achieve this change will require lowering the priorities of other programs. What do you sacrifice to make the change?" (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).

- "This issue is great when the funding is available. The funding should only be spent in a way that is as low as funding available." (Nevada State Director, Nevada Good Sam Club).
- "With the high tech environment of today, interpretation and educational enhancement opportunities will be available. Through careful management and adequate funding this activity will really make a difference." (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, County of Washoe Road Division).
- "I feel educational funding is easily assessable through numerous avenues, but funding for interpretation is greatly needed." (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).
- "State Historical Preservation Office is not funded to provide adequate interpretation to the sites of interest to recreationists." (Wilderness/Recreation Manager, U.S. Forest Service, Tonopah Field Office).
- "Funds should be sought for signage fliers and interpretation (video tapes-speakers) to provide environmental and cultural opportunities for the multiple recreational areas within the state." (Engineering Technician II, Clark County RPM Department).
- "The issues here are money and vandalism. Some are reluctant to put up signs, etc. for interpretation and locations because they say they will just get vandalized. I think we just have to accept a certain amount of that and do the best we can with education and a moderate amount of law enforcement to prevent it. Road and trail signs are very important so people can know where to go plus there is a safety aspect. If people are available to organize it, volunteer activity can help a lot in with both interpretation and education." (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- "The City's recreational trails along the river and through the canyons/mountains lack interpretive signs to explain the ecological, geologic and cultural heritage of the area. Funding doesn't exist to properly provide for and maintain these signs." (Parks Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services).
- "Funding interpretation and education should be limited to a smaller percentage of the monies. I believe there are many other programs to fund them." (President, Elko Sno-Goers).
- "I agree, but let each individual group help to fund and provide their own support money, time, etc. to their culture and heritage." (Private Citizen, Sparks).
- "Interpretation and environmental education is often under valued and funded. This lack of understanding can result in inappropriate behavior and use of both natural resources and facilities causing excess expense for O&M, management, and public safety. The additional cost for these services could have otherwise been allocated for resource development." (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).

Coordination of educational programs among governmental agencies and non-profit groups

- “Many state and federal agencies have a role in providing environmental, cultural, and heritage opportunities. Better coordination between agencies needs to be conducted to avoid duplication of efforts.” (State Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, Nevada Department of Transportation).
- “There is no coordination between existing interpreters and educators in the state agencies. Sharing program knowledge and abilities would benefit all. State Parks, Wildlife, Museums all have interpreters and educators on staff.” (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Existing groups, from state parks to 4H to Scouts to schools to Ducks Unlimited et al do this effectively, but need coordination and dollars.” (Employee, Zephyr Cove Resort).

Educate of the youth on natural resources and places where they can visit rural environments

- “Our youth need practical outdoor training and experiences, as well as responsible earth and ecological science knowledge, in order to grow into capable and conscientious citizens. Nevada's Native American populations need an inter-tribal archive and interpretation center. Northeastern Nevada would be a good place to site it; perhaps at Great Basin College.” (Private Citizen, Elko).
- “We must fund more public educational programs for the preservation of the outdoors. More important we must fund more programs to help children respect the outdoors. They are the ones that will inherit it.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).
- “Do more than what is being done now. Education should start at the grade school level and continue through college. On-site interpretation and education should be realistic. How is the land being used, what are the effects, what lives there, what does water do, what animals depend on what sources for food and water, etc.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Children of parents don't need programs. Parents of children do need access—to be able to get to the "open space" or the park, or the forests, lakes, and creeks—without being trespassers. Rather than spend on educators, shouldn't we spend on access? The outdoor opportunities are out doors—we ought to unlock the gates.” (General Manager, Indian Hills General Improvement District).
- “Ensure the interpretation and education is balanced and science based. All outdoor activities should be treated equal—wilderness, non-motorized, motorized, equestrian, etc.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “An established program with staff person to lead educational sessions with school children and public would be helpful, as we do not always have the resources to do this.” (Acting Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).

- “Environmental education classes and some field trips are the ideal starting point. Follow-up resource appreciation education can be provided at higher grade levels related to activities like hiking, hunting, fishing, and back country skiing. Some of this can be provided by resources minded volunteers as well as agency personnel and educators.” (Retired Employee, U.S. Forest Service).
- “The surest way to accomplish this is the occasional structured presentation within the Nevada school system. A curriculum item, approved by the state Department of Education, mandating these educational programs—perhaps two hours, twice a school year--will educate the young minds that public lands belong to them and are for their careful use.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Work with the school boards in each county to develop curriculum that is targeted to their county. Courses could be offered in several grades to educate students on conserving resources, preserving species, exploring archeological areas, etc. Utilize federal and state agencies to provide work plans, plan field trips, provide instructors, etc.” (Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada State Office).
- “This issue serves two functions. (1) It is inherently useful for the enjoyment by current and future users, and (2) It helps to create more stewards and constituencies for resource protection (see issue 4 and 5). School children and students of all ages should be considered. State curriculum should encompass this goal by developing/mandating cultural/natural resource education and education in environmental problems and citizen stewardship.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, National Park Service).
- “Wildlife appreciation classes should be a regular part of the school curriculum.” (Boating Access Grant’s Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

Educating the general populace

- “People need to be aware of what Nevada has to offer. Most people only think of Las Vegas or Reno when you mention Nevada and we need to make them more aware of what we have to offer besides gambling!” (Citizen, Greater Austin Area Chamber of Commerce).
- “We have so much to learn, so much to teach. With the growth in Nevada, mostly from in-migration, we have an obligation to share our heritage with newcomers. Public education about the resources instills respect, which leads to wise use and protection.” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).
- “Lots of opportunities to have education in the general public, but most of the time we run them off and won't let them help because we don't think they are worthy of being there. There are lots of good people out there with lots of talent. Retired people looking for something to do. And we normally discourage using them (this is poor education).” (Owner, ATV Adventures).
- “Nevada's new and growing population must be educated on Nevada history and culture. This is best done through hands on interpretation opportunities.” (Senior Account Representative-Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).

- “With better knowledge and understanding, the public will become more enlightened conservators, users, and consumers of our natural etc. resources.” (Trails Project Coordinator/Designer, Truckee Meadows Trails Association).
- “These educational goals need to balance book learning. We need to teach ourselves and our children to see and understand the subtle complex relationships of nature. To connect to the land's history and the history of the people of these lands begins to teach an understanding and open-mindedness for all lands and all people. We need to teach the history of indigenous peoples as well as settlers, builders, and local history.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).
- “As Nevada becomes more populated and the urban environment increases, it becomes more important that people have the opportunity to learn about and experience nature.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City).
- “Education and stewardship should create a better land ethic--leave no trace, tread lightly. The better people understand the resources and their importance, most will respond with respect. Instead of vandalizing or tearing things up through ignorance, most improve the behavior and care for resources. Understanding one's heritage keys in on roots and reason.” (Founder, Truckee River Yacht Club).
- “The way to insure the future is to educate the present. Funds are needed to educate the people now to protect the future.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “People are more interested in this than ever before. New technologies can make them interesting and interactive.” (Park Planner, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “An enlightened citizenry will need and want outdoor opportunities. Education is the key to an enlightened citizenry.” (Hiker, Incline Village).
- “People will not know and appreciate the great diversity within the State if no methods are in place to introduce the population to the opportunities.” (Game Warden IV, Eastern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “People from urban and rural areas will benefit to learn about environmental, cultural, and historical resources. The Red Rock Audubon Society has been assisting various agencies with development of wildlife and bird brochures to educate the public.” (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).
- “Without education and interpretation about our natural and cultural resources, many people unknowingly damage the fragile resources of this desert state. Despite the long-standing presence of laws protecting cultural resources, “hunting for arrowheads” and bottle or artifact collection in ghost towns or mining camps continues to lead the “chart” of activities enjoyed by many residents, particularly in rural areas. Public Television and Public Radio stations have made Nevadans more aware of the recreational opportunities in their own state, and the various agencies have offered programs to help users understand and appreciate the resources in their jurisdiction. However, we need to focus on getting more people to attend these programs! The choice of media might be part of the solution: agencies may need to work with Public Television, Network or Cable Television, to popularize the programs along the lines of the “Crocodile Hunter,” who

educates as he amuses his viewers.” (Park Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).

- “People need to know the "why"—why an area is considered important, why it's protected, why certain areas are not appropriate for visitors as resources are easily damaged, etc. This contributes to the kind of "ownership" required for long-term sustainability of these resources. It becomes their issue, not someone else's problem. Increasing the opportunities in the areas of interpretation and education leads to a more complete and satisfying recreational experience. Eco-tourism is becoming increasingly popular, and it has a strong educational component. Many Nevadans feel proud of their "natural heritage," and capitalizing on that would lead to a more involved and informed public, supportive of increased facilities, funding and other needs of outdoor recreation.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).
- “It is important to actively interpret our area's natural history and cultural heritage for residents and visitors so that they will appreciate the wealth of resources in the Great Basin. Funding for interpretation and education are limited and often the requirements for matching funds, documentation, and administration are so demanding the community does not have the capacity to apply for and use the funds that are available. It is important to provide the services and funding for interpretation and education in ways that make it possible for rural communities to access and use them.” (Coordinator, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council).
- “This should be a very high priority, especially with all the out-of-state residents moving to Nevada who may understand the uses and benefits of the outdoors.” (Assistant Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “I think our Ranger talk program should help educate the people of Nevada and maybe have collection stations in our camp grounds for donations for education.” (President, Pahrump Valley Dust Devils).
- “There is so much to enjoy and see in the desert. We can all learn and appreciate.” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).
- “Need to provide quality education on the multiple use benefits from wilderness designation. Our wilderness resources are disappearing from irresponsible users and vandals.” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).
- “Agencies in the state should develop partnerships with the education entities regarding environmental, and cultural education programs. In Carson City the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City, and Carson High School have created an educational experience at the Ambrose Nature Study area along the Carson River.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).

Entities to market interpretation and education programs

- “All of these efforts require literature, staff, or volunteer time, etc. You also need to properly market these programs and opportunities. If you don't, then none will come. This again requires working with your local Convention and Visitors Authority and the Nevada Commission on Tourism.” (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).

- “This program is one that could be pushed by the Convention Bureau a lot more. They have the expertise and money to really get the word out.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate and Asset Management Division, City of Las Vegas).

Encourage environmental education

- “Environmental education to include proper use of trails, where trails are located, and how citizens can help preserve land are great efforts that need to be encouraged.” (Rural Towns Manager, Clark County, Rural Towns).
- “To succeed in issues 1-5, public education is extremely important. Increased opportunities to inform the young are needed. Has State Parks ever worked with tribes to provide information on the importance of animal and plant resources? Oftentimes, tribal representatives are powerful and persuasive speakers that can influence the young.” (Assistant Director, State Historical Preservation Office).
- “Fine. Let's educate the public on Tread Lightly! Get the message to the children in the schools, especially the high schools, on how to properly conduct oneself and one's vehicle on the public lands.” (Member, Blue Ribbon Coalition).

Land management agencies to educate and inform the public and recreationists

- “The major land managers of the state need to concentrate on the management of the resources they are in charge of. They should provide as much information as possible so that the recreational users are aware of the resources they are using and any restrictions and or laws that are applicable to them and the area of use.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelmen).
- “The lands managed by the BLM in Nevada are a great--mostly untapped--recreational resource. These lands tell a myriad of compelling stories ranging from changing prehistoric environments to American Indian lifeways to the quest for precious metals. The BLM strives to relate these stories to the recreating public through a variety of interpretive media from signs and brochures to formal and informal interpretive programs. The BLM also recognizes the need and value of programs that help the recreating public obtain the knowledge, skills, and ethics for responsible recreation on public lands and is a national partner with both the Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly environmental ethics programs.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office).
- “Interpretation and education programs will assist land managers in showing responsible behavior to users. These should be included in planning any new recreational area as well as existing areas. Education of user etiquette would also be beneficial to promote responsible trails use among all user groups. Provide knowledgeable speakers of outdoor recreation to assist local user groups and informing their memberships.” (Trails Chairman, Nevada All-State Trail Riders).
- “All recreational projects should include a component of interpretation and education to ensure that the fundamental objective of public lands stewardship

and park and recreation development and management are not diluted, misinterpreted, or lost.” (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).

- “Education is a key in the development of sustainable uses on public lands. All users need to be educated not only on the interpretation of specific aspects of sites, but also on general "Leave No Trace" ethics.” (Representative, Organization on Environmental Issues, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).
- “To become better stewards of the resources, environmental education is a must. We receive "0" funding for our environmental education program in the Battle Mountain Field Office, however, by combining BLM/USFS efforts we offer 3 annual environmental education days for elementary schools throughout the district and give presentations upon request at area schools on a full spectrum of resource subjects. This is accomplished through many hours of volunteer time by BLM and USFS personnel.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Office).
- “Expertise is essential in any worthwhile project and this is where state and federal agencies can shine--to provide assistance and direction to local governments who may lack this expertise.” (Park Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “We should provide more staff at state parks and sites to better interpret those sites that are important to Nevada.” (Author Unknown).

Issue # 7: Nevada’s Growing Population Places Increasing Demand on Outdoor Recreation Resources and Suppliers

Correlation between population increases and increases in outdoor recreation

- “Rapid growth in overall population and the increasing number of senior citizens in the state place an increasing demand on existing resources and creates the need to diversify, acquire, and improve on all recreational opportunities.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Population growth has had a statewide impact on recreational resources and facilities. New resources and recreational opportunities need to be identified and implemented. One suggestion would be to pursue the development of a statewide pathway/trail loop that would link regions of the state (Clark County, Washoe County, Interstate 80, Highway 93, 95 corridors). Recreational opportunity would be increased dramatically for residents as well as visitors; length of stay would be increased; populations, user groups and use of facilities would be dispersed.” (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).
- “Nevada's tremendous population growth has created a demand on recreation as much of the population growth comes from areas that provided more recreation opportunities than Nevada. This population should be approached for ideas on resources, funding, and development that were successfully used in other states.” (Engineering Technician II, Clark County RPM Department).
- “As the population increases there will be more user conflicts and access problems. By developing additional trails and staging areas the impact to

crowded areas will be diminished. Maps, # 6 brochures, interpretive information of local recreation areas would be helpful to give users alternatives. These could be distributed through local businesses, land management agencies, and trail heads. New resources should be a priority for all recreational entities, in heavily populated areas.” (Trails Chairman, Nevada All-State Trail Riders).

- “There is no doubt that with the increase in Nevada's population an increase in pressure on recreational areas has also occurred. This increased pressure is most evident in the urban/wildland interface around the most rapidly growing population centers. Increased recreational use in these areas has led, and will continue to lead, to conflicts between user groups and between users and residents. The BLM strongly believes that the best way to cope with this growth and its potential problems is to approach them proactively through planning that involves all interested parties.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office).
- “Nevada is the fastest growing state. Also, out-of-state visitation seems to be growing just as fast.” (Park Planner, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Growing population and increasing demand are a certainty. Until the war spending moderates and budget deficits are eliminated we will have to do more with less.” (Hiker, Incline Village).
- “Again, as population grows, land is used up or privatized. Less land for general public use. Need to research and acquire these lands for future use.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “(Population) growth is concentrating in urban or near-(new) urban areas. The challenge is to have a local governing body which wants recreation to be a public priority.” (General Manager, Indian Hills General Improvement District).
- “With the increase in populations, 4-wheels, 4-wheel drive's, and many other types of outdoor recreation, along with the increase pressure from the environmental side, well thought thru projects need to be developed.” (President, Elko Sno-Goers).

Urban-rural dichotomy

Urban areas:

- “Again I can't stress enough that the development needs to be close to urban areas and fees charged to compensate for their entertainment.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “Open space acquisition is critical near urban areas. Nevada's remaining wild places need to be protected now or they will be lost forever.” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).
- “The growing population in our city requires expanded parks and recreational facilities which current funding mechanisms are unable to provide. In particular, we are short of full-service community centers and sports fields.” (Parks Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services).

- “Outdoor recreation currently exceeds carrying capacity at most recreational areas in proximity to urban areas. There is a public need for additional recreational sites closer to urban centers where use is greatest.” (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).
- “With the growth in Nevada, mostly from in-migration, we have an obligation to share our heritage with newcomers. Public education about the resources instills respect, which leads to wise use and protection. Many of our resources near urban areas are very susceptible to vandalism, theft, or encroachment. As the sites are more and more publicized, the only way to protect them is through aggressive development and publicity.” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).

Rural areas:

- “But the areas where the population is expanding are not the areas where the recreation sources are likely to be located. That burden falls on those rural counties surrounding Clark, Washoe, and Elko Counties. The rurals would have to be funded by the areas of increased population which drive the new demand.” (Director, Community Development, City of Caliente).
- “While urban Nevada is growing, the rural areas are not necessarily keeping pace. Concentration on those areas with growth leaves residents of rural communities without adequate recreation resources. Since the rural residents usually do not have recreational facilities available through the private sector, they depend entirely on the facilities and programs that can be offered through the public sector. In addition, inadequate funding in rural areas does not provide adequate development of outdoor recreational facilities for urban residents who visit the rural areas.” (Citizen, Greater Austin Area Chamber of Commerce).
- “To keep people spending their dollars in Nevada we need to build on what Nevada has to offer. Rural areas have a lot of potential due to a lack of population and plenty of room to grow, and need to be developed to help keep money in the state, also to bring in more tourism!” (Coordinator, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council).

Planning is needed to meet increasing outdoor recreation demand

- “Part of the education of the public. Get them involved in what increased demand means. Do much better planning and development on public lands to accommodate the increased use. Excuses of staffing and money are getting old when public land managers charge money for access and don't provide accessibility.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Amen. A system for setting/identifying what resources are--before funding and acquisition and development.” (Founder, Truckee River Yacht Club).
- “I think this is important, but it again goes back to funding. We need to develop this statewide plan for our future recreational needs.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

- “Facilitate regional and local identification of needs. Individuals with interest, expertise, and capacity move to fill observed or exposed opportunities. Obviously, large scale projects require broader input and resources.” (Private Citizen, Elko).
- “New resources need to be identified, acquired, funded and developed. As the population increases, it is important that quality of life issues be addressed throughout the state. It is unfair to allow the burden of recreational resources be placed on the rural areas to support the urban population centers. There should be more collaborative development.” (Representative, Organization on Environmental Issues, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).
- “YES! Identify what the population wants and provide that in a balanced pro-rata basis. Some want wilderness. Some want to use motors. Some want to use horses. Seek input, from "the population," not just the "land users." (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “A resource inventory should be performed with an associated cost of improvement required to meet increasing demands so appropriate funding levels can be acquired/generated.” (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, County of Washoe Road Division).
- “Nearly thirty years ago (1973), Nevada did a study on potential recreation areas; only a few of the areas studied actually were acquired and/or developed by State or local agencies. Given the new activities that people enjoy (as listed in Issue # 1), a new study needs to be undertaken, with attention given to the suitability of the different kinds of recreational pursuits for each area studied. Public input is also important, and users should be surveyed to find out what their needs include; survey fliers in sporting goods stores and specialty shops would pinpoint the target audience. Funding for acquisition and development should be considered in respect to which agency (city, county, state or federal) is best suited to acquire and develop the area. (In the past twenty years, the Bureau of Land Management has come a long way in managing for recreation users as well as mining, agricultural, livestock and wildlife “users.”). (Park Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “New resources need to be identified, acquired, funded, and developed.” (Wilderness /Recreation Manager, U.S. Forest Service).
- “I agree that we need to take a proactive approach to identify new resources and to acquire, fund, and develop these resources. Again, the "Green Sticker Program" that I have mentioned in issues # 2 and # 3 would be a good financial tool.” (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).
- “This single issue is probably the most essential in developing a program to address. It crosses all fiscal, economic, political, and jurisdictional boundaries. People want to come to Nevada to experience the freedom and opportunities which abound here. Are we prepared?” (Park Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation).
- “Recreational opportunities need to keep up with the demand.” (Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association).
- “The more resources that are developed, the less over population that we will have at each individual site.” (Author Unknown).

Increases in the number of outdoor recreationists may change recreational pursuits

- “The increase and variety of recreational users continues to increase. Many activities are evolving and need to be considered in overall management plans. An example is the recent surge in mountain biking, a new type of trail user that has had to work hard to gain user acceptance. Now mountain biking has its own branch of new riders - downhill, slalom and stunt specific riders looking for “downhill trails, slalom courses and stunt courses.” These users will seek resources that are conducive to their style and local land managers need to be aware of what these users are seeking and why.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelmen).
- “Even in rural central Nevada, recreation use is shifting from the old traditional uses of hunting, fishing, and camping to OHV's, rock climbing, dune buggies, and etc. More and more visitor use is changing from local to urban visitors and they expect recreation enhancements, toilets, developed and maintained campsites, trails, signage, brochures, site interpretation, etc. Without funding, planning, reduced impacts to resources, and staffing to meet these challenges, Nevada will not be able to meet the future recreation demands.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Station).
- “Nevada has major outdoor recreation opportunities other than skiing and water sports. People do not want to travel to see such things like the Black Rock Desert etc.” (Citizen, Sparks).
- “Not only is the population growing, the out-of-state use is growing. A portion of tourism income (taxes) needs to be allocated to nurture these recreational resources for all users. Nevada is a natural wonder that all desire to use, but must be cherished and protected. We do this by developing enough for usage demands. Over used lands are damaged and wildlife becomes too tame or disappears.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).

Care of existing parks

- “State Parks needs to work with other state agencies and federal agencies to seize opportunities as they arise. However, I would like to see maintenance of existing parks rank more highly than the creation of new parks.” (Assistant Director, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office).
- “Proper care of and expansion where possible of existing resources will be basic as long as agencies are limited in finances and personnel.” (Retired Employee, U.S. Forest Service).
- “I disagree. More important to control existing population use rather than encourage more use/damage to the environment.” (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “While it is true about the increased population, it is also true that maintaining existing recreation resources is far more important than finding new resources. I say this only because we are losing resources at an alarming rate. Attempting to

find new resources only reduces the funds and efforts available to maintain existing resource. The probability of finding and opening new recreational opportunity would surely meet with a great resistance from those dedicated to closure.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).

- “Keeping up with new facilities in growing area. Also maintenance and renovation of older facilities to make sure they are just as good as the new ones.” (Acting Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “While new resources may need to be identified, existing recreation resources should be improved or expanded after appropriate NEPA documentation completed. It is imperative that wilderness and roadless areas are protected. There is plenty of open space available for recreation, and wildlands comprise a small percentage.” (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).
- “We don't need a lot of development. Just use the access roads that are already there. Use primitive camping more. Not everyone wants pavement that goes against what you are trying to do when you are protecting an area. Use the Camp Elgin area, Whitney Pockets Gold Butte (encourage the commercial operator to help you).” (Owner, ATV Adventures).

Rapid development in the state requires actions to be taken to meet outdoor recreation needs

- “So don't close existing access points. Make sure the housing developers keep access points open as a requirement in the permit process. Still have to get money appropriated from the legislature.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Developer impact fees must be increased.” (Project Coordinator, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “New resources? No new land! Tract homes (commerce) get all.” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).
- “We are allowing/encouraging development in Vegas at all costs, restricting use of public land in surrounding rural towns as the exchange, and then watching as urban residents mis-use outlying public land, shutting down its use by all, even those living in the rural areas. Education and expanded use need to be the answers before restricting access.” (Rural Towns Manager, Clark County, Rural Towns).

Meeting the increasing outdoor recreation demand will require ample funding

- “Funding is the key but also the hardest thing to find.” (City Manager, City of Yerington).
- “Funds! It's a continuing theme!” (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).
- “Volunteers and special interest groups can do a lot with minimal funding.” (Dunes and Trails ATV Club).
- “State agencies need to identify new recreational opportunities and explore any new ideas for funding. Old resources are stretched very thinly.” (Game Warden IV, Eastern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

- “New funding should primarily be the responsibility of the users of the resource.” (State Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, Nevada Division of Transportation).
- “As the state continues to grow at it's currently rapid pace, agencies need to identify and pursue new funding sources. The City of Carson City has a sales tax override and Washoe County has newly approved bond money. Recreation suppliers need to continue to seek new ways to fund demands.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Population growth needs to pay for growth in recreation resources. Southern Nevada has SNPLMA funds for these purposes. User fees help only to a point. A broad base funding source like a recreation bond needs to be developed.” (Senior Account Representative—Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).
- “The state should be looking at ways to generate revenue from businesses, users, and tourism to support the costs of providing recreational opportunities. We all should contribute in one way or another to supporting public lands/wildlife and landscape functions.” (Trails Project Coordinator/Designer, Truckee Meadows Trails Association).
- “Again, not enough funding coming from the federal folks or state government to do quality programs and education. More folks put a bigger demand on facilities and resources which must be limited at times to ensure they are around in several years.” (Park Planning Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department).
- “New resources perhaps, but proper funding for maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities is more cost effective.” (Employee, Zephyr Cove Resort).
- “Departments and organizations that are diligent and resourceful can and are finding new resources and funding. This is essential.” (Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board, Henderson Parks and Recreation).
- “Certainly more recreation opportunities will be needed. I guess the issue here is money and whether funding can be expanded at a rate at least proportionate to the increased demand. Hence the need for partnering with private enterprise and volunteer activity.” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “It goes back to the elected officials position. They have to appropriate adequate dollars for building and maintaining facilities used by the general public.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate & Asset Management Division, City of Las Vegas).
- “This issue is synonymous to Issue #2, i.e., there is a shortage of financial resources to provide sufficient recreation for a growing population. An increase in the “residential construction tax” that government agencies may levy and / or an increase in State and Federal funding for recreation is mandatory.” (Deputy Director, Las Vegas Planning and Development).
- “Work with land management agencies to (1) identify under-utilized recreational areas and then develop an educational campaign to promote these areas. (2) Have them identify lands for possible disposal that could be utilized for recreational use. Work with foundations to secure funding for the purchase of such lands, if possible to purchase, or work with agency to secure recreational "easements" to allow for recreational use.” (Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada State Office).

- “Similar to issue # 2. Unfortunately, public funds are often open for competition among providers. Greater partnerships with private providers can mitigate some of the necessity for public expenditures.” (Recreation Program Manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency).
- “This one is self-explanatory. More people means more pressure on existing, already strained recreational and natural resources. As stated earlier, the legislature needs to move recreation resources higher up the priority ladder-- which likely will involve more education from user groups and other recreation advocates. Local governments need to find out whether citizens are willing to entertain additional taxes to pay for local recreational improvements. New residents are typically used to paying for quality of life amenities such as parks; why shouldn't that happen here as well? The success of the statewide bond issue in 1990 and other local initiatives such as Washoe County question 1 in 2000 demonstrate that Nevadans are willing to spend their hard-earned dollars on parks, recreation, and wildlife.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).

Development of outdoor recreation resources

- “In many areas, resources such as water are available, but access (roads) is limited.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).
- “I believe this issue addresses (1) Amounts of recreation lands near urban areas. (2) Rural public areas/lands needing development of trails, campgrounds, and information/education; and (3) heritage areas needing funding and interpretation. Acquisition is not always required. Frankly, this issue is lower priority in my opinion next to issues # 1, 2, and 3.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park).
- “In my mind there is no question. The longer we delay will result in fewer areas available for recreational development.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City).
- “New reservoirs need to be created around the state to meet the increased angler demands for fishing spots.” (Boating Access Grants Program Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “The population using the Nevada funded areas will go to private areas when the need for other recreational resources are needed.” (Nevada State Director, Good Sam Club).
- “This ties in closely with issue # 1. For a state the size of Nevada our ability to provide for Nevadan's growing population is severely restricted by a federal control that is untenable for the 21st century. The word "acquired" above, is the key word.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).

Education of the user should precede providing access to areas

- “Not without educating the public you're giving the access.” (Planning Manager, Advanced Planning Division, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).

Issue # 8: Coordination and Cooperation Between Recreation Providers

“True support”

- ““True support” evolves from “true involvement” in both the planning, implementation, and stewarding levels. The South Fork Dam in Elko County stands as an example of a state facility somewhat distanced, in any meaningful measure, from a “partnership” approach.” (Private Citizen, Elko).
- “The more true cooperation between all entities should be strongly considered. But, there are many rural projects that won't have many different entities, so we need to be careful with this issue.” (President, Elko Sno-Goers).
- “What constitutes “true” support? Coordination, cooperation, and partnerships are all important.” (Planning Manager, Advanced Planning Division, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).

Remove hindrances to improving coordination and cooperation and forming partnerships

- “Perhaps the most important long term issue to pursue. Too often, the passion and resources lay at the polar ends of a spectrum and the wishes and needs of the majority in the middle go unmet.” (Employee, Zephyr Cove Resort).
- “Partnerships are discouraged by the BLM. If the rules were changed, local government entities could foster their private/public relationships to get the initial seed money for many building projects for recreation purposes.” (Manager, Department of Public Works, Real Estate and Asset Management Division, City of Las Vegas).
- “Partners with government have never worked out well. The public is never listened to.” (Member, Southern Nevada Land Cruisers).
- “Coordination between/among all government entities serves users by avoiding duplication and giving clearer ménages. “True” private citizens and users support should mean development of stewardship and willingness to address issues in a civil manner. Anti-government sentiment is in some areas so severe it affects agencies recruitment of staff, agency personnel's ability to do their jobs, and infects the atmosphere for open consideration and resolution of critical issues.” (Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, National Park Service).

Partnerships

- “Partnerships are important. However, it is critical that resources are not damaged due to enthusiasm of partners that want their own projects regardless of the sensitivity of the resources. (President, Red Rock Audubon Society).
- “Everyone must cooperate if our precious resources are to survive the current generation as well as future generations. Public/private partnerships must become stronger than they have ever been. Take that extra step to get things done.” (Park

Planning Manager; Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department).

Tools to improve cooperation

- “Convenient, open meetings, workshops, and gatherings can foster these relationships.” (Project Coordinator, Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Regional partnerships are effective when a central goal directs action. General meetings to talk are a waste of time.” (Public Information Officer, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “All people and groups should support their chosen activities.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).
- “Volunteers for resource activities are often available but don't know what to do or where and when. There lies the agency opportunity to coordinate the volunteers effort with agency effort.” (Retired Employee, U.S. Forest Service).
- “The state and federal agencies and the University have in place a coordination element called "Nevada Biodiversity Initiative." Use this as a model to create a "Nevada Environmental Education Committee" that would compile agency information, assist with developing curriculum for various grades, notify schools of availability of these people and materials and involve private organizations to help fund and participate.” (Outreach Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada State Office).
- “Jim, for all the issues it is critical that more permanent, capable personnel are necessary in addition to funding. Thanks!” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office).
- “Especially at the front end, where plans are made. Duplicity is as wasteful as ignorance. By building new facilities and access to them through collaboration, more access is available and more citizens served.” (General Manager, Indian Hills General Improvement District).
- “I strongly support this approach, however, it should not result in special interest groups dictating (who) can or can not use certain areas. We need to become more creative in our approach to setting up, planning, and carrying out cooperative efforts. There are ways people can participate even if they are not able to put in 8 hours of physical labor maintaining, building, and repairing recreational facilities.” (Equestrian Rider, Carson City).

Designate an agency and a person to take a lead role to facilitate coordination, cooperation, and partnerships

- “There needs to be an over-riding advocate for the land, that balances permitting and usage, both public and private. Over-use in any situation needs to be monitored. Restrictions to private users should not be unreasonably withheld. It is by balancing all users that the land will be protected while providing the best recreational experience.” (Director, Lakeside Tennis and Ski Resort).

- “Cooperation between all sectors at the various levels needs clear direction. It is well known that everyone agrees to cooperate but the detail direction for achieving that commitment is lacking. A plan of action detailing how all the parts fit together to achieve productive cooperation is needed.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Involving the public and private sectors in project planning and project implementation is the best way to insure the success of any effort. This involvement can be instrumental in helping to insure that recreational services/opportunities are not duplicated by other state and federal agencies. By involving user groups, it also insures that the recreational services/opportunities provided are indeed those desired by the recreating public. The BLM works closely with other public agencies (USFS, NDOW, NDSP, Washoe County Parks, Carson City Parks) and user groups (Friends of Silver Saddle, Friends of Sand Mountain, Pine Nut Trail Association, NV Backcountry Horsemen) when planning for future recreational use.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office).
- “Create work teams, committees, etc. of representatives of each entity, organizations, users, and groups. Publicize interests for each recreational area. Involve local businesses and public event organizers. Give incentives for participation. Planning should be specific for each area. Identify issues pertaining to each, not an overall plan for a regional area. By providing discounts to user fees in lieu of maintenance labor creating partnerships with non-governmental entities.” (Trails Chairperson, Nevada All-State Trail Riders).
- “The current relationships are characterized by distrust and unwelcoming behavior. It is difficult to improve while each side entrenches into their own positions. A liaison paid to work on this would be extremely helpful. Many support options could be harnessed and resources from the public could supplement the existing.” (Trails Project Coordinator/Designer, Truckee Meadows Trails Association).
- “Too many groups and agencies (notably federal, state, and regional) act without a comprehensive strategy or communication with others. It should be unacceptable to act so with the public's tax dollars. Direction for change in this area must come from the electorate, which means it needs to start at the grassroots level - us.” (Past President, Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association).
- “I agree that we need more cooperation and cooperation between public and private recreation providers. A statewide coalition should be established. I would be willing to serve on such a coalition to promote recreation opportunities in Nevada.” (Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority).
- “See answer to issue # 7. Additionally, developing a common vision and defining the desired future conditions can help forge these much needed partnerships.” (Recreation Program Manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency).
- “For this plan to succeed, a number of partnerships need to be developed. The problem is that local, state, and federal agencies have a difficult time working together in Nevada. A lot of work needs to be done in this area for this program

to work.” (Game Warden IV, Boat, Southern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

- “During the past five years, many “working groups” (committees) have been formed to deal with issues as diverse as wildlife, mining, water resources, and exotic species/weeds. These working groups include interested members of the public along with professionals in the various agencies. We need the input of our users to know what is important to them, while at the same time, our users need to know that agency decisions are based on what is best for the resources. It is time for the formation of a Nevada Recreation Working Group, to gather input and create solutions for the problems facing recreation today. Too many people are too busy for long meetings, but the venue of Internet “chat rooms” and/or conference calls make it possible for people to get together at a time convenient to most, without the downtime or expense of travel.” (Interpreter, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “This sounds good, but “true” implementation is another matter entirely. The current system is too scattered to be practical. I’m afraid this is destined to be another nice sounding platitude, until and unless one entity is formed or encouraged to take the lead.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
- “Development and adoption of a comprehensive, statewide “vision” plan for the future to include public and private sector involvement and endorsement is a recommended strategy and tool for establishment of coordination and cooperation needed for a successful future.” (City Planner, City of Elko Planning Department).
- “From my perspective, it seems that this is happening more frequently now in Southern Nevada than it has in the prior 10 years. But the on-going effort must be sustained. To accomplish this a lead agency should be designated.” (Representative, Organization on Environmental Issues, Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board).

Involve different entities

Local groups and citizens:

- “With adequate funding and public notice, and a process to explain the goals, priorities and objectives would be of great benefit to coordinate, assess, and problem solve recreational issues. Local groups and citizens can be effective in solving and mitigating local issues if they are involved in the process.” (Secretary, The Reno Wheelmen).

User groups:

- “As a percent of a population, the various user groups is small. The general population really cares little for specific hiking/biking/motorized use areas. Those users do care and work hard for their specific preferred form of recreation. Far more coordination and cooperation among the bikers and motorized users is

needed, while the hikers generally should be more tolerant. Everyone needs to be more tolerant of others' recreation form.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).

Private entities:

- “Encouraging or even requiring private participation by developers should be pursued. If you benefit from urban growth, be required to pay for some development of recreational lands beyond the community park (city/county owned).” (Rural Towns Manager, Clark County, Rural Towns).
- “This issue relates to Issue #2. Because government agencies do not have the necessary financial resources to provide adequate recreation, coordinating efforts with recreational providers is necessary. In most instances, those providers will be developers who are willing to provide recreational opportunities as amenities for residential developments if they profit from doing so. Consequently, government agencies may need to provide incentives to developers to expend funds for recreation.” (Deputy Director, Las Vegas Planning and Development).
- “That is what 1-7 is all about, but it does not happen today. Open your minds to the idea that there are private people out there that can help. They may be retired rangers, BLM, or government workers, military who know what resources is out there for (you) free. Glad to help. (Give us all a chance to save and use our land and help you manage it.).” (Owner, ATV Adventures).
- “Am not sure I recognize "private recreation providers" as an entity. Most private land (a small minority of the total land in Nevada) is presently utilized for private purposes (farming, grazing, etc.). Most "private" providers operate on public lands through the permitting process--snowmobiling at Spooner would be an example--and usually that same land is available for the independent (single) user and , usually, without permit.” (Member, BlueRibbon Coalition).

Volunteer, non-profit, citizen's groups:

- “Volunteer groups, government, and interested parties forming non-profits and advocacy groups have to be taken seriously. These people want to help, so government should support and foster their growth and development.” (Trails Coordinator, Department of Comprehensive Planning, Clark County).
- “Need more cooperation between agencies and more use of volunteers. We have a growing number of retired people with a great diversity of skills and knowledge that agencies can use to everyone's benefit.” (Game Warden IV, Eastern Region, Law Enforcement Bureau, Nevada Division of Wildlife).
- “Local support and cooperation should begin with private citizens and user groups. Partnerships with state and federal agencies should assist and facilitate local plans and concepts.” (State Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, Nevada Department of Transportation).
- “Although quite a bit of support already takes place, there needs to be support from various interest groups (manpower and monetarily) to complete wildlife's mission, i.e., fly fishing clubs, bass fishing clubs, chuker clubs, Ducks Unlimited,

Nevada Big Horns, etc.” (Boating Access Grants Program Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife).

Governmental entities:

- “I can't agree more--work more closely with local governments and BLM plus USFS on trails; create stewardship programs for parks with special needs.” (Assistant Director, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office).
- “Cooperative efforts do not just happen. It takes capable, experienced people to make them work successfully. This usually falls to government agencies at some level. Are they willing to fund the personnel to make these efforts work well?” (Member, Joint RAC NCA Subgroup).
- “Cooperation within all governmental bodies as planning and construction projects are developed to include recreational opportunities.” (Manager of Road Operations and Maintenance, County of Washoe Road Division).

Public/private entities:

- “The coordination and cooperation of all users and agencies is necessary to attain the trail and recreation results needed by all.” (Engineering Technician II, Clark County RPM Department).
- “Many outdoor user groups would be happy to cooperate with governmental and private recreation providers to educate and help provide funding if there was a visual improvement in outdoor recreation areas.” (President, Las Vegas Good Sams).
- “Public/private partnerships facilitate ownership with many recreational assets. These partnerships bring additional resources to the project and often result in community support and awareness.” (Parks Planning Manager, Clark County Parks and Recreation).
- “The BLM and USFS need to work more with the private sector to allow more access to PUBLIC lands. By coordinating with the private sector we could have better and more areas for outdoor recreation.” (Citizen, Greater Austin Area Chamber of Commerce).
- “Southern Nevada over the last several years has used the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program of the National Park Service to help form two very successful public-private partnerships in the Southern Nevada Regional Trail Partnership and the River Mountains Loop Trail Partnership.” (Senior Account Representative—Economic Development, Southwest Gas Trailhikers).
- “More now than ever agencies need to seek out partnerships to meet the demands of its citizens. State, local, and federal agencies need to form these partnerships to make the most out of their service levels. In addition, government agencies need to look for partnerships with the private sector also.” (Director, Carson City Parks and Recreation Department).
- “Outdoor recreation in Nevada depends on meeting the challenges of the future through partnerships development at all levels. Increased funding and staffing isn't going to happen in the agencies. We all have to work together with a spirit of cooperation, understanding, and a common goal to meet the recreation challenge of

- the future. Without partnerships nothing can be accomplished.” (Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Station).
- “The coordination and cooperation of public and private recreational providers is great but there is no reason for private companies to have any control in governmental entities such as the reservation company the federal government is using.” (Nevada State Director, Good Sam Club).
 - “This issue is unclear to me. All users must talk with each other and understand each other’s needs. Entrenched positions are not helpful for meaningful dialog.” (Member, Friends of Nevada Wilderness).
 - “To insure future recreational use of lands, everyone has to work together.” (Regional Manager, Nevada Division of State Parks).
 - “Facilitation of partnerships with other agencies (public and private).” (Acting Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
 - “More inclusion of public in decision-making processes by staff and elected officials will improve support for the total partnership of democracy.” (Chairman, Parks and Recreation Board, Henderson Parks and Recreation).
 - “When public and private sites are adjacent, the two entities should work together to make the site a better and more user friendly place to visit.” (Author Unknown).
 - “Coordination and cooperation is critical for rural communities because resources are too limited to cover the needs that exist. While private sector recreational providers are limited in rural areas, any contribution from the private sector are significant in helping rural areas meet their recreational needs.” (Coordinator, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council).

Partnering as a means to institute creative funding

- “Necessary for partnering, funding, maintenance etc. Money is too scarce not to join forces. Memorandums of Agreement/Cooperation necessary. Planning coordination also important for connecting things together--trail ends meet, coordination replacing competition for funding, setting priorities, coordinating political support, etc.” (Founder, Truckee River Yacht Club).
- “Partnerships are important. Partnering is one of the creative funding approaches that needs further implementation.” (City Manager, City of Yerington).
- “Cooperation is very important. It will help extend what limited resources are available.” (Assistant Director, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).
- “I’m not sure that there’s enough communication currently across jurisdictional lines between the state, local, and federal agencies that deal with recreation. One agency can’t do it all; coordination is becoming increasingly critical in this time of budgetary challenges at all government levels. The public likes to see smart government practices such as cost sharing and collaboration. User groups and private citizens are an untapped resource in the stewardship and advocacy arena.” (Executive Director, Nevada Land Conservancy).
- “With the competition for funding sources, there is a huge need to create more partnerships.” (Coordinator, Economic Development for the City of Carlin).

- “With ever-shrinking budgets for non-profits and local, state, and federal agencies, the need for partnerships is the way to successful programs.” (Executive Director, Tahoe Rim Trail Association).
- “Cooperation and coordination could be the key to getting through the next few years of reduced spending.” (Hiker, Incline Village).
- “An essential factor that should be included in any grant disbursement.” (Park Superintendent, Henderson Parks and Recreation Department).